COLLEGE BASKETBALL YEARBOOK 1996-97

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The Sporting News 1996-97 College Basketball Yearbook

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CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Letter from the EXECUTIVE EDITOR

I often am asked what kind of qualities I look for in writers and editors for THE SPORTING NEWS. Certainly, the ability to write and/or edit helps, but an equally important quality is to have a burning passion for the games we cover.

I can't speak for his ability to edit, but I can tell you that Mike DeCourcy, our college basketball writer, can write and has that deep, burning passion for the game of basketball.

How else can you explain a man who spent a week of his summer vacation split between a day watching the USA Basketball Select Team play the Dream Team in Detroit, two days at the Nike All-American camp in Indianapolis and two more at the adidas ABCD camp in Teaneck, N.J., to get a read on the high school talent crop?

DeCourcy

How else can you explain a man who makes it a habit to catch Memphis-area AAU games and high school games and, on occasion, gets his wife to come along?

How else can you explain a man who spent another part of his vacation in Italy, "where I was disappointed to learn basketball season had ended, and spent time working on my second book about the game"?

And when he's not vacationing, his "job" is to cover college basketball and the Memphis Tigers for the Memphis *Commercial-Appeal*.

"My passion for basketball developed because my brother, Pat, was a player who eventually played NAIA ball at La Roche College in suburban Pittsburgh. I spent so much time going with my father to watch him play and developed a feel for the game and how it works," DeCourcy says.

"I played plenty of basketball but never was tall or quick enough to make a school team. My brother got to be 6-0; I stopped at 5-7½. Got to have that half-inch. When I was in high school, though, I had my own team in a YMCA rec league. My nickname was 'Deac,' short for my last name, so I called it the Deacons. We were horrible the first year, then progressed to mediocre the second. At Elizabeth (Pa.) Forward High, I played in an intramural league and consider the greatest moment of my athletic career to be playing for (and winning) the league title before a school assembly; I made my only jumper and was 3-of-4 on free throws. Only problem was, my side had to be 'skins.'

"My love for basketball was applied to the college game in part because we had no pro team in the city, in part because I came of age during the pro game's cocaine days and in part because the college game is just better. I like to watch a play develop at its own pace more than I enjoy seeing teams racing the 24-second clock to get off a decent shot."

It was five years into his journalism career before DeCourcy was able to display his passion for the game by covering it. In 1987, he took over covering the Duquesne basketball program for the *Pittsburgh Press*. After that, it was four seasons covering the University of Pittsburgh, then to Memphis, where he has been covering the Tigers.

DeCourcy, whose "Scouting the Nation" story begins on page 12, began writing the College Basketball Report column a year ago in THE SPORTING NEWS. He'll be there again this year, and you also can catch him on his regularly scheduled chats on our America Online service (Keyword: TSN).

"The biggest story in college basketball this year is the decline of the talent base caused by defections to the NBA and, more so, by the tightening restrictions on freshman eligibility. (By the way, be sure to read Steve Harrison's piece on one player, Cincinnati's Danny Fortson, who stayed put, beginning on page 18.)

"I've never seen so many coaches unsure in late summer whether they would have this player or that eligible. The game's almost certain to decline as these two factors drain away talent. The only question is how deep the drop will be."

Like most of you, not deep enough to suppress Mike DeCourcy's passion for the game.

As always, he and we welcome your comments. You can write us at 10176 Corporate Square Drive, Suite 200, St. Louis MO 63132; fax us at 314-997-0765; or e-mail us at tsnmail@aol.com.

Steven J. Meyerhoff

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THE SPORTING NEWS is a registered trademark of The Sporting News Publishing Co., a Times Mirror Company. ISSN 0895-0598.

The Sporting News Publishing Co.
10176 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 200
St. Louis, MO 63132

The Sporting News Yearbook series is published eight times a year by The Sporting News Publishing Company.

1997 on-sale dates:
Fantasy Baseball ...December 24, 1996
Baseball ..... February 18
College Football ..... June 24
Fantasy Football ..... July 1
Pro Football ..... July 8
Hockey ..... September 2
Pro Basketball ..... September 16
College Basketball ..... October 14

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The Sporting News

COLLEGE BASKETBALL SURVEY

"YO, IT'S FLY. THE BOSS WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT COLLEGE BASKETBALL AND THIS YEARBOOK. FLY'S TALKIN' ABOUT THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE NCAA HOOPSTERS FROM "THE BIBLE OF SPORTS." TELL THE SPORTING NEWS WHAT YOU THINK AND YOU GET A SHOT AT SOME GREAT STUFF."

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1. Should college athletes be paid?
◇ Yes ◇ No

2. Should college athletes be allowed to have jobs at school if they choose?
◇ Yes ◇ No

3. Should players be required to sit out one year when transferring from one Division I school to another?
◇ Yes ◇ No

4. As an incentive for a college athlete to stay in school, should the university have to take out an insurance policy that would compensate a player for potential lost wages as a result of an injury taking place while playing sports at the school?
◇ Yes ◇ No

5. Once enrolled at a university, should a student athlete be required to fulfill two years of his scholarship before being eligible for the NBA draft? ◇ Yes ◇ No

6. Do you approve of the rule that allows college players to declare for the NBA draft and return to school if they aren't picked as high as they'd like? ◇ Yes ◇ No

7. Which is more exciting to you, a three-pointer or a dunk?
◇ three-pointer ◇ dunk

8. Should the three-point line be moved further back? ◇ Yes ◇ No

9. Should all NCAA Tournament teams be chosen by committee instead of some receiving an automatic invitation based on a conference championship? ◇ Yes ◇ No

10. Do you prefer professional or college basketball? ◇ pro ◇ college

11. Would you rather have seen college basketball players representing the United States at the Olympics rather than the professional Dream Team III members? ◇ Yes ◇ No

12. If you attended college, do you actively support your school's basketball team by attending games or donating money to the athletic department? ◇ Yes ◇ No

13. Have you ever watched any sporting event on pay-per-view?
◇ Yes ◇ No

14. How many college basketball games do you attend in a season?
◇ 0-2 ◇ 3-10 ◇ over 10

15. How far away do you live from the home court of the nearest Division I college basketball team?
◇ 0-25 miles ◇ 26-50
◇ more than 50

16. Would you like to see more coverage of women's basketball?
◇ Yes ◇ No

17. Would you like to see more coverage of the NAIA? ◇ Yes ◇ No

Please turn the page ☛

18. How often do you refer to The Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook throughout the season?
◇ weekly ◇ monthly ◇ constantly

19. If we could devote more or less space to certain sections (without changing the overall number of pages), how would you like to see that space used?

More pages	Fewer pages	Perfect as is	
___	___	___	Feature articles on players, issues, etc.
___	___	___	Conference previews
___	___	___	Team charts
___	___	___	Scouting the nation and conferences
___	___	___	Predictions (conference races, All-America teams, etc.)
___	___	___	Openers

20. Anything else we should change to improve The Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook?

_____

21. How many other people read your copy of The Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook?
◇ 0 ◇ 1 ◇ 2-3 ◇ 4-5 ◇ 6-15

22. What factors influenced you to buy The Sporting News College Basketball Yearbook? (Check all that apply.) ◇ overall editorial content
◇ graphic presentation ◇ cover
◇ price ◇ name recognition

23. Ideally, when would you like to buy the College Basketball Yearbook?
◇ Oct. 1 ◇ Oct. 15 ◇ Nov. 1
◇ Nov. 15

24. Which other Yearbooks from The Sporting News do you read or look through? (Check all that apply.)
◇ College Football ◇ Fantasy Football ◇ Pro Football
◇ Baseball ◇ Fantasy Baseball
◇ Pro Basketball ◇ Hockey

25. If it were possible to buy all eight of The Sporting News Yearbooks on a subscription basis, would you do so?
◇ Yes ◇ No

26. Do you read Yearbooks from other companies? ◇ Yes ◇ No

26A. If yes, which ones? ◇ Athlon
◇ Dick Vitale's ◇ ESPN ◇ Lindy's
◇ Preview ◇ Sports Illustrated
◇ Street & Smith's
◇ Other_____

27. Do you read The Sporting News weekly magazine? ◇ Yes ◇ No

27A. If yes, are you a subscriber?
◇ Yes ◇ No

28. Do you play sports? ◇ Yes ◇ No

28A. If yes, what sports do you play?
◇ football ◇ golf
◇ baseball ◇ tennis
◇ softball ◇ running
◇ basketball ◇ cycling
◇ hockey ◇ hiking/walking
◇ soccer ◇ rollerblading
◇ other (s)_____

29. Have you ever purchased something through the mail?
◇ Yes ◇ No

30. Do you own a personal computer?
◇ Yes ◇ No

31. Do you currently subscribe to an on-line service? ◇ Yes ◇ No

32. Do you play in a Rotisserie or other fantasy league? ◇ Yes ◇ No
◇ baseball ◇ football
◇ basketball ◇ hockey ◇ golf

33. Do you collect trading cards?
◇ Yes ◇ No

33A. If yes, which sports?
◇ baseball ◇ football
◇ basketball ◇ hockey
◇ other _____

33B. Where do you purchase them?
◇ memorabilia store
◇ convenience store
◇ supermarket
◇ mass merchandiser (K-Mart, Bradlees, etc.)
◇ other_____

34. Do you wear merchandise featuring your teams' logos?
◇ Yes ◇ No

35. How much do you spend a year on sporting goods (clothes and equipment)? ◇ under $100
◇ $100 to $250 ◇ over $250

36. Will you be buying a new car or truck in the next two years?
◇ Yes ◇ No

37. Do you consider brand names in your purchasing decisions?
◇ Yes ◇ No

38. Have you ever traveled to attend a college basketball game outside your local market? ◇ Yes ◇ No

39. Please check the category that includes your age. ◇ Under 18
◇ 18-24 ◇ 25-29 ◇ 30-34 ◇ 35-44
◇ 45-54 ◇ 55-64 ◇ Over 64

40. Are you... ◇ male? ◇ female?

41. Are you... ◇ married? ◇ single?

42. Did you attend or graduate from college? ◇ Yes ◇ No

43. Which of the following categories contains your approximate total household income, before taxes, for 1996? (Please include total earnings for all members of your household from all sources.)
◇ Under $20,000 ◇ $50,000-$74,999
◇ $20,000-$29,999 ◇ $75,000-$99,999
◇ $30,000-$39,999 ◇ $100,000-$199,999
◇ $40,000-$49,999 ◇ Over $200,000

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Compiled by Tom Dienhart, Stan Dorsey, Joe Hoppel and Mike Huguenin.

Making a COMEBACK

The toughest coaching job in the nation this season, hands down, is faced by Portland State's Ritchie McKay. Hey, compared to McKay, Rick Pitino has it easy. All Pitino has to do is win another national title. McKay has to resurrect a program from the dead.

Portland State dropped basketball as a cost-cutting measure after the 1980-81 season, and in a roundabout way, football is responsible for the comeback of basketball. The Vikings are restarting the program to coincide with their entrance into the Big Sky Conference. The main reason for the entrance into the Big Sky is so the Vikings' football program—a perennial Division II power—can move up to the I-AA level. But while the Big Sky is I-AA in football, it's Division I in basketball.

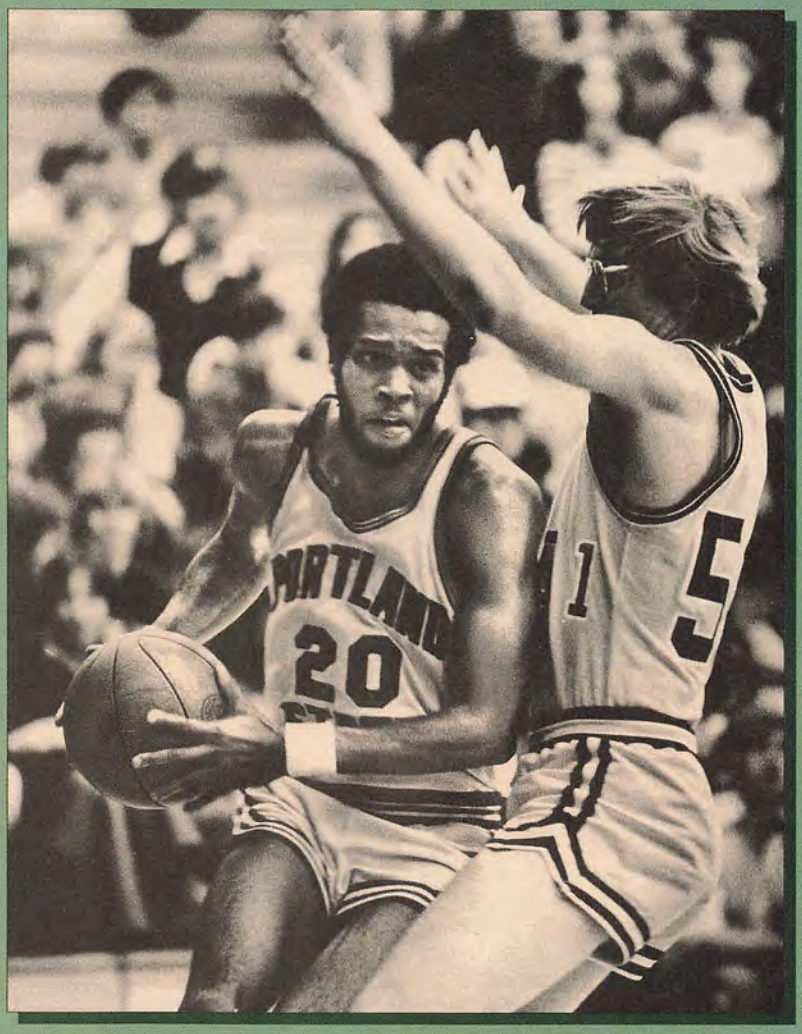
The school does have some basketball tradition: It's the alma mater of Freeman Williams, who is the second-leading scorer in NCAA Division I history behind Pete Maravich. Williams, who played six seasons in the NBA and enjoyed a career pro average of 14.7 points, scored 3,249 points from 1975-78 at Portland State. Williams led the nation in scoring at 38.8 points per game in 1976-77, the sixth-best mark in NCAA history.

McKay, 31, was an assistant at Washington when he was hired by Portland State in August 1995 to get the ... uh ... basketball rolling. He has 11 players on this year's team: one transfer from a four-year school, five junior college transfers and five freshmen.

McKay expects the Vikings to play an up-tempo style and said shooting ability is a key: "We really like to shoot the basketball from 3-point range."

McKay, who also has been an assistant at Bradley, gained some notice in 1994 when he started a group called "Coaches for Christ." McKay is not shy about professing his faith, saying "I want to spread the good news. I want to make disciples of Christ. ... I definitely think coaching is a ministry opportunity."

While Portland State will struggle on the floor this season, at least the Vikings will have a nice place in which to struggle. Ten of their 14 home games will be played at the 21,401-seat Rose Garden, the home of the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers. The Rose Garden will be the largest home arena for college basketball on the West Coast and the sixth-largest overall, behind home courts at Syracuse (33,000), Tennessee (24,535) , Kentucky (24,000), BYU (22,700) and North Carolina (21,572). ◆



MICHAEL LLOYD / THE OREGONIAN

The high-scoring Williams, who led the nation in scoring in 1976-77, is Portland State's most-famous alum. It's safe to assume that no one on this year's Vikings squad will come close to putting up his kind of numbers.

If history rubs off, KANGAROOS COULD REALLY LEAP

If only the walls could talk—and offer a few instructional tidbits.

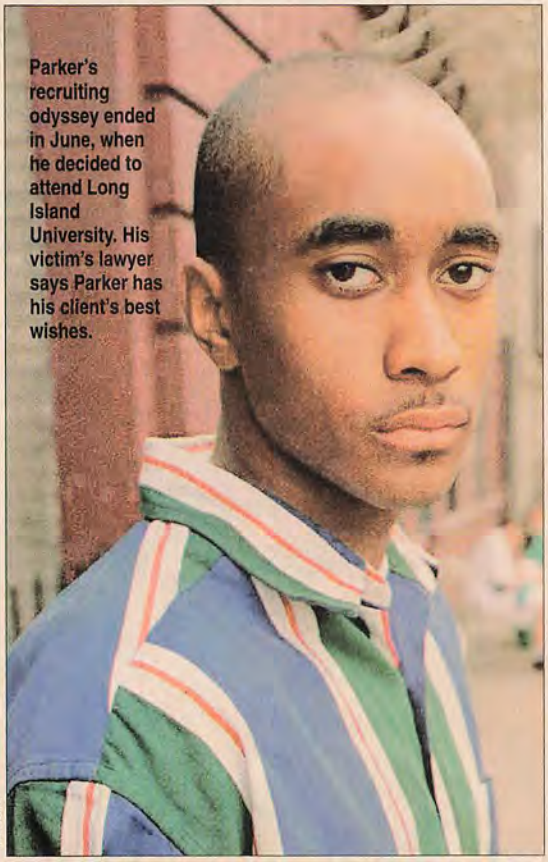
Missouri-Kansas City, about to embark on its 10th season of Division I basketball, hasn't been on the big-time sports scene long enough to build much of a tradition. UMKC's biggest claim to fame to date was the selection of Kangaroos star Tony Dumas by the Dallas Mavericks in the first round of the 1994 NBA draft.

Last season, the Mid-Continent Conference member compiled a 12-15 record—a notable improvement over the previous year, when the 'Roos lost 19 of 26 games, but hardly the kind of stuff dreams or tradition are made of.

If UMKC can't revel in its Division I accomplishments just yet, it can boast of having a link to many of college basketball's greatest moments and best players. After all, the Kangaroos' home court is Municipal Auditorium, site of a record nine NCAA championship games.

Among the memorable events to unfold on the old Auditorium's floor were the 1955 NCAA final, in which Bill Russell and the San Francisco Dons won the first of their two consecutive national championships by turning back defending titlist La Salle; the 1957 semifinals and final, featuring North Carolina's triple-overtime victories against Michigan State and Wilt Chamberlain-led Kansas that completed the Tar Heels' 32-0 run to the national title; Cincinnati's stunning overtime triumph against highly favored Ohio State (Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek, Larry Siegfried and Co.) in the 1961 battle for the crown; and UCLA' s victory over Duke in the 1964 final that gave the Bruins and coach John Wooden their *first* national championship.

If just a smidgen of that history could rub off on the UMKC program, the Kangaroos no doubt would be—what else?—jumping for joy. ◆



Parker's recruiting odyssey ended in June, when he decided to attend Long Island University. His victim's lawyer says Parker has his client's best wishes.

NEWSDAY

'I'll respect everybody'

Two of the most talked-about New York City recruits of the past three years will square off on November 23 at St. John's Alumni Hall, when the Red Storm host Long Island University.

One is St. John's junior Felipe Lopez, who hasn't come close to living up to all the hype showered on him when he was considered the crown jewel of the 1994 recruiting class. The other is Richie Parker.

Parker generally was considered one of the top 50 seniors in the nation in the 1995 class. But in January of that year, Parker and a high school classmate forced a freshman girl to submit to oral sex in a stairwell at Manhattan Center High School. He and his classmate were charged with first-degree sexual abuse, and his basketball recruitment became a circus.

He had signed a letter-of-intent to attend Seton Hall before the incident. After Parker pleaded guilty (he was sentenced to five years' probation) and the incident became widely known, Seton Hall rescinded the offer. Then, other schools shied away. George Washington and Utah were among those who expressed interest, then backed off.

Parker eventually enrolled at Mesa (Ariz.) Community College for the 1995-96 school year but did not play basketball. In June of this year, after going through off-and-on recruiting with schools such as Southern California, Fullerton State and Oral Roberts, Parker announced he would attend Long Island University, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Parker says he thinks he has the talent to play at a more prestigious program (LIU hasn't had a winning season since it was 15-13 in 1984-85), but "No matter where you're at, your talent will follow you. LIU is a rebuilding program and I want to be a part of it."

The victim's lawyer, Michael Feldman, says his client is "fully in support of Richie Parker going to LIU. LIU's doing something that takes a lot of courage and should have been done last year." In 1995, Parker, now 20, settled his part of an $11 million civil suit filed by the victim by pledging a percentage of earnings he would make playing professionally.

In June, Parker told the New York *Daily News* that he expects scrutiny from interest groups, but "I'm there like any other student, to earn a degree. I'll respect everybody."

LIU provost Gayle Stevens Haynes, the mother of three teenaged girls, said the decision elicited more positive response than negative. "Unless there's an island that I don't know about where we send (people) forever, we have to provide pathways for ... people so they can rejoin society," she said. ◆

And another thing ...

Lester Earl may be able to test out of "The Art of Negotiating" class in college. He has proven he knows how to wheel and deal just like Huey Long.

Considered one of the top five prep players in the nation last season, Earl had LSU's Dale Brown and Tulane's Perry Clark, among others, jumping through hoops to sign him. In the end, it was Brown who performed the most tricks and ultimately secured Earl's signature on a letter-of-intent. After being turned down by in-state talents Jerald Honeycutt, Rayshard Allen, Kerry Kittles, Kirk King and Billy Thomas in recent years, Brown needed Earl to say "yes" to help sustain his floundering program. He got his wish, and more.

Earl told prospective schools that he would sign only if a scholarship also was made available for his friend and former Baton Rouge (La.) Glen Oaks High teammate Leroy Womack, who played last season at The Winchendon School, a prep school in Massachusetts.

No problem, said Brown, who also signed another of Earl's Glen Oaks teammates, Cory Powell, who, coincidentally, didn't meet eligibility requirements.

But Earl wanted more than Womack tagging along; he also wanted a spot for his brother, Louis, on the team.

No problem, said Brown.

Three years older than Lester, Louis spent two years playing for Bossier Community College in Shreveport, La. He is scheduled to enroll at LSU and will be a walk-on with a chance to earn a scholarship. (Hey, you gotta like Louis' chances to make the cut!)

This type of move by Brown should come as no surprise. (And it's not just Brown; other coaches do it, too). Remember, Brown is the guy who hired the high school coaches of Rudy Macklin and Howard Carter, mainstays of the Tigers' 1981 Final Four team, to help persuade them to sign with LSU. In an attempt to get Tom Curry a few years later, Brown hired his prep coach—but Curry ended up going elsewhere. And in 1988, Brown hired Stanley Roberts' high school coach as an administrative assistant. ◆

FEAST of TALENT

When it comes to sniffing out prime talent, coaches know the McDonald's All American team is the place to make their order. The company began sponsoring an all-star game in 1978 and features an impressive alumni list, including Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson and Isiah Thomas. Indeed, the level of talent is unmatched.

The school of choice for McDonald's big cheeses has been North Carolina (35), followed by Duke (21), Kentucky (19), Michigan (18), UCLA (17) and Indiana (15). Each of those schools has won at least one national title and have combined to claim nine since the 1978-79 season, so the matriculation of McDonald's All Americans is worth noting.

Should this trend hold, which schools can we expect to win it all in the next few seasons? Keep an eye on the following institutions, which have landed at least three All Americans over the past four seasons:

- **North Carolina (7):** Jeff McInnis, Jerry Stackhouse and Rasheed Wallace, 1993; Vince Carter and Antawn Jamison, 1995; Ed Cota and Vassil Evtimov, 1996.
- **Duke (6):** Joey Beard, 1993; Trajan Langdon, Ricky Price and Steve Wojciechowski, 1994; Taymon Domzalski, 1995; Nate James, 1996.
- **Michigan (6):** Bobby Crawford, 1993; Willie Mitchell and Jerod Ward, 1994; Louis Bullock, Robert Traylor and Albert White, 1995.
- **Arkansas (4):** Darnell Robinson, 1993; Kareem Reid, 1994; Derek Hood, 1995; Glendon Alexander, 1996.
- **Indiana (4):** Sherron Wilkerson, 1993; Andrae Patterson and Neil Reed, 1994; Jason Collier, 1996.
- **Kansas (4):** Jacque Vaughn, 1993; Raef LaFrentz, 1994; Paul Pierce and Ryan Robertson, 1995.
- **Cincinnati (3):** Damon Flint and Dontonio Wingfield, 1993; Danny Fortson, 1994.
- **Florida State (3):** LaMarr Greer and Corey Louis, 1994; Randell Jackson, 1995.
- **Kentucky (3):** Antoine Walker, 1994; Ron Mercer and Wayne Turner, 1995.
- **LSU (3):** Ronnie Henderson and Randy Livingston, 1993; Lester Earl, 1996.
- **Memphis (3):** Deuce Ford and Cedric Henderson, 1993; Lorenzen Wright, 1994.
- **UCLA (3):** Charles O'Bannon, 1993; omm'A Givens, 1994; Jelani McCoy, 1995.
- **Virginia (3):** Norman Nolan and Curtis Staples, 1994; Willie Dersch, 1996.

Note: Of the 52 players listed, six have transferred from their original school and nine have turned pro early. ◆

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

There she is ... Iowa State forward Brad Johnson's mom.

Family Matters

A number of current college basketball players have some famous family members. Some examples:

• Arizona guard Miles Simon is Darryl Strawberry's brother-in-law.

• UAB forward/center James Bristow is a cousin of Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Derrick Thomas.

• Southwest Missouri State guard Ryan Bettenhausen is the grandson of the late Tony Bettenhausen, a long-time race car driver.

• Florida forward LeRon Williams is the son of former NFL All-Pro tackle Henry Lawrence.

• McNeese State guard Ronald Dumars is the nephew of Detroit Pistons guard Joe Dumars.

• Cal State Northridge swingman Gerald Rhoden is the son of former Jamaican Olympian George Rhoden, who won two track gold medals (in the 400 and the 1,600 relay) in the 1952 Olympics.

And there are a number of players who have famous older siblings, among them Boston College forward/center Mickey Curley (brother of NBAer Bill); Eastern Michigan forward Torrey Mills (brother of NBAer Terry); Michigan State forward Antonio Smith (brother of NFLer Fernando); and UCLA forward Charles O'Bannon (brother of NBAer Ed).

But in our exhaustive research, we have come across a player who—we think—has the coolest family background of all: He's the son of a former Miss America.

Miss America of 1969, Judith Anne Ford, is the mother of Iowa State forward Brad Johnson, a junior college transfer from Indian Hills CC in Ottumwa, Iowa. Ford, who was Miss Illinois when she won the crown, now is known as Judi Nash and is the girls golf coach at Geneseo (Ill.) High School.

Johnson, though, doesn't think having a Miss America as a mom is any big deal. "It never comes up around here," says Johnson, who could see some playing time this season because of his outside shooting. "This all happened before I was born." ◆

A whole lot of losin' goin' on

Herbert "Stoney" Burgess surely had visions of greatness before Georgia State's inaugural basketball season in 1963-64. Alas, Burgess and Georgia State went 1-21 in their first season and Burgess was replaced after the season. And the beating has gone on at the school in downtown Atlanta.

Georgia State has the worst winning percentage of any team in Division I. The school's overall record is 242-609—a winning percentage of .284. That's nearly 8 percent worse than the next team on the "loser list," Virginia Military Institute.

There's no doubt that Georgia State has a love affair with the "L," but if you want to talk about consistent helplessness, several teams offer a far better portrait.

Take Northwestern, for example. The Wildcats have been competing in Division I since 1905; the Wildcats' winning percentage is .400, the fifth-lowest in the land. Since 1905, the Wildcats have managed to amass more losses (1,135) than any team in the land except for one. That team would be Yale, which along with Ivy League mates Brown and Harvard represents a triumvirate of feebleness barely justified by the fact that they produce Rhodes Scholars at about the same rate they do losses. Yale actually is the losingest team in the land, with 1,153 setbacks since it began play in 1896. But the Elis also have won 1,140 games, which gives them a .497 winning percentage—much too rich for the neighborhood we're talking about.

Brown and Harvard, though, do live in this neighborhood. Brown's winning percentage (.403) is sixth-worst and Harvard's (.431) the eighth-worst.

The dishonorable Top 10:

Rank/Team	Conference	1st year	Record	Pct.
1. Georgia State	Trans America	1964	242-609	.284
2. Virginia Military	Southern	1911	619-1117	.357
3. Texas-Arlington	Southland	1969	371-614	.377
4. New Hampshire	America East	1962	693-1046	.399
5. Northwestern	Big Ten	1905	758-1135	.400
6. Brown	Ivy	1901	764-1132	.403
7. Lehigh	Patriot	1902	765-1063	.418
8. Harvard	Ivy	1901	787-1040	.431
9. Kent	Mid-American	1914	747-973	.434
10. Charleston Southern	Big South	1966	360-457	.441

Caught on the Fly

• Hey-yo, college career lifespans are shorter than **Muggsy Bogues** these days, but some are shorter than others. The Spies say don't blink or you'll miss these freshmen, who suh-wore their allegiance to ol' alma mater but more'n likely'll play for pay after one season at this here level: 'Nova's **Tim Thomas**, Arizona's **Mike Bibby and** LSU's **Lester Earl**.

• Yeah, yeah, **Jesse Pate** and **Sunday Adebayo** are outta here, but the Hawgs'll be wallowin' in victory this winter. **Kareem Reid**, **Pat Bradley**, **Derek Hood** and **Lee Wilson** are a formidable foursome at Arkansas. Oh, and Fly almost forgot: **Darnell Robinson**'s gone, which makes the **Nolan** & Co. even happier.

• Fly's Fallen 5 or "When Fly Says Rankings, the Accent's on *Rank*": 1. Mizzou; 2. UVa.; 3. Virginia Tech; 4. Cal; 5. Memphis (also receiving no votes: Maryland).

• Hey, didn't you used to be **Rollie Massimino**?

• OK, all you coaches who plan to kick fanny and take names come March take one step forward ... um, not so fast, **Keady-n-Calhoun**.

• Fly hears that after its dance lessons courtesy of the Ivy League last season, UCLA's back with greater resolve and maturity, not to mention all five starters. Yo, **Alcindor**-breath, yer missin' the *point*: The Bruins still don't have one. **Jason Hart** coulda/shoulda/woulda looked good in powder blue, but **Jim Boeheim** wasn't gonna let him go.

• Wolverines fans singin' the blues think JC import **Brandun Hughes** will be just the thing for this oh-so-talented team. But the Spies say this shoot-first, pass-never point guard will turn **Coach Fish**'s rosy cheeks fire-engine red. (Is it warm in here, Coach, or is it just Fly?)

• Forecast calls for Dookies to wake up from a two-season slumber, but look closer. No, *closer*. **Coach K** inked a boffo group of high schoolers, but it looks like he's repeatin' himself. See if you see a trend: New kids are **Chris Carrawell** (6-6, 210), **Mike Chappell** (6-8, 210) and **Nate James** (6-6, 210). Mix them with **Carmen Wallace** (6-5, 190), **Ricky Price** (6-5, 185) and **Jeff Capel** (6-4, 195). That's a lotta folks who play the same positions.

• Speaking of the Blue Devils, Sir Duke's blue blood must be boilin' knowin' that—eek!—a transfer (St. John's defector **Roshown McLeod**) will wear blue-n-white.

• Finally, Fly's Fearless Forecast: It won't take **Bruiser Flint** more than a minute, man, to realize he's in over his head at UMass. The transition from players' buddy to authority figure is hell, Coach. ◆

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Dave Kindred

NOTHING'S FOREVER,

We're on I-75 rolling north through Kentucky toward dinner with nuns.

Rick Pitino said yes to the nuns last winter when they asked if he'd come speak at an affair raising money for their work with the poor. So now it's June 1996 and Pitino sits in a van, his team manager at the wheel, his administrative assistant in the passenger seat reviewing applications to Pitino's summer basketball camp. "Tell me again, where are we going?" the coach asks.

"Thomas More College," the administrative assistant says. "Sister Emerita has called, like, every day to see if there's anything we need."

"When we will be done?"

"Maybe 9, 9:30."

It's summertime and the living is great in Kentucky. Once again, the University of Kentucky's basketball team has won a national championship, its sixth but its first in 18 years and only the second in the past 38 seasons. And for folks who love Kentucky basketball, the best part is that it's summertime and Rick Pitino is on the job, rolling north toward the Ohio River.

Until mid-May, no one knew if he'd be back at Kentucky or in New Jersey coaching the NBA's Nets. For several reasons—not the least being Pitino's unique stature as an NBA coaching star before winning the NCAA title—his name comes up anytime a pro job opens. Because he has a New England background and has coached the Knicks, Pitino is the first choice when, say, the Celtics or Knicks need a coach. Moreover, he makes himself a candidate for such jobs by refusing to say he will stay at Kentucky forever.

The Nets offered a $30 million contract that included part ownership and full authority to run the basketball operation. The deal was attractive beyond those obvious levels. Pitino's wife is a New Yorker who, on moving to Kentucky seven years ago, expressed her distaste for the move.

Pitino had decided to take the New Jersey job but put off saying so until after a golf junket to Ireland with fans who paid to accompany him. While on that trip, Pitino says, he realized he didn't want to leave Kentucky. In the seven years, his teenaged children had come to think of themselves as Kentuckians. His wife, Joanne, had made a compromise with the place: She lived in Kentucky during basketball season and spent the summers in New York near her parents.

"If you have doubts," Joanne said to Pitino late one night in Ireland, "you should do what your heart wants to do."

"If that's the case," Pitino said, "we're staying."

Soon enough, speculation began. The New York papers said Pitino didn't like the Nets' management. They said Kentuckians on the Ireland trip sweetened the pot. Mark Kriegel of the New York *Daily News* wrote of the Pitino he knew with the Knicks:

"Great coach, can't trust him. That was the line on Little Ricky. No one believed him when he said there hadn't been a problem with (Knicks general manager) Al Bianchi, who despised the ground on which Pitino hustled.

"No one believed him a couple of years ago when he tried to deny his interest in the Lakers' job. No one believed him last month when he said he was in (New York) to see his doctor. And no one believed that Peter Pan stuff," a Pitino allusion to the Nets' challenge keeping him young.

When *New York Times* columnist Dave Anderson read a Pitino quote saying, "I realize now my heart is with the players of Kentucky," Anderson wrote, "For how long?"

To all such talk, Pitino says, "Why can't anyone accept the simple answer?"

The simple answer is a man can get by on $2 million a year, as Pitino does in Kentucky. The simple answer is the Kentucky basketball job is the best college coaching job there is. The simple answer is he has come to understand what basketball means to Kentuckians. It means to them the same thing it means to him. Everything.

With a wry smile born of hard-earned wisdom, Pitino says, "I no longer make jokes about how much people in Kentucky care about basketball."

We're on I-75 rolling north through Kentucky. The NCAA championship trophy rests at the feet of the coach, who says, "The sisters asked us to bring the trophy along. Somebody better remember to bring it back." And then the coach talked about bourbon bottles that prove how much Kentuckians care about his game.

Pitino created the Daniel Pitino foundation after the death of his infant son. "Maker's Mark (the bourbon people) came to me with an idea to make a commemorative bottle as a fund-raiser for the foundation," he said. "It would be their bourbon with a Kentucky-blue label, like our uniforms' denim color.

"Maker's Mark hoped to sell 20,000 bottles. Instead, they sold 250,000. And the company president's daughter came to me later. She said, 'We could have just filled those bottles with tea instead of bourbon and made a lot more money. You know nobody's ever going to open those bottles.' "

Here we are, on a Kentucky summer night, Rick Pitino on his way to talk to a few nuns . . . .

Who'd have ever thought it?

Who'd have thought he would win a national championship in Kentucky and turn down a $30 million job that would take him back to New York?

This is a man whose reputation precedes him. That reputation was made early and confirmed often. It portrays Pitino as the poster boy for arrogance and ambition, a hustler on the make—not to say he can't coach. Said John Feinstein, the sportswriter and best-selling author, "Ricky's such a great coach that he's almost as good as he thinks he is."

Most basketball folks figured Pitino would bail out for the pros at the end of his original seven-year Kentucky deal—if not sooner. In fact, he went to Los Angeles two years ago to talk to Jerry West, the Lakers' executive vice president of basketball operations, about the coaching job there.

"I went out of my great respect for Jerry West, not because I was looking to leave Kentucky," Pitino said.

It is instructive, as well as amusing, to analyze Pitino's thinking in these complicated matters. He once made a public promise that he would never leave Providence College; two months later, he went to the Knicks. When he decided this summer to turn down the Nets and stay at Kentucky, he said he wasn't going anywhere. Well, is a Pitino promise a promise or empty rhetoric?

Sportswriter Jerry Tipton, always on the Pitino watch for the Lexington (Ky.) *Herald-Leader,* has written of the coach's flirtations with the NBA: "Mr. Cynical thinks it's the nature of Pitino to love the spotlight, a trait that dates back to his days as a hot-doggin' high school hotshot. Besides, it's good for business—recruiting and motivational speaking—to be perceived as a hot commodity."

So it works two ways. If Pitino makes another Providence-like promise, no one would believe him. And if he doesn't make the promise, everyone assumes he's available for a job.

Tipton also has written of Pitino: "To his credit, he later admitted his pseudo pledge to stay at Kentucky was as much smart strategy as a firm commitment. (He) said, 'If I say I don't know, you kill recruiting. If I say I'll take it year by year, I can't sign a prospect. You follow my dilemma? I have to do what's best for the University of Kentucky. What's best for the University of Kentucky is to say I'll be here forever because that's my job.' "

In other words: Nothing's forever. We're all grownups here. Deal with it.

We're rolling on I-75, Pitino at peace with the curious circumstances of a coach's life. He says to his administrative assistant, Marta McMackin, "Did they say how many people they expect at this dinner?" She says, "No idea."

We're rolling through people's dreams. Basketball has been Kentucky's game since Adolph Rupp arrived in 1930. A poor, rural

but Pitino seems at peace

state with nothing much to be proud of—coal miners raped the beautiful eastern Appalachian hills and the western flatlands—Kentucky earned a respectability through the university's basketball success: four national championships from 1948 through 1958 along with an undefeated 1953-54 season when the team chose not to play in the NCAA Tournament.

Joe Begley was a political activist trying to end strip mining of coal in eastern Kentucky. Someone once asked him how big basketball was in his state. He said, "If a lump of coal ain't Jesus Christ, basketball is."

Mark Pope, a senior on Pitino's national championship team, grew up in Washington state. "I'd heard about the Kentucky tradition," he said. "But until you experience it, you can't know it. The sheer numbers of people who care—it's like it's a mandatory part of the culture to take the game seriously."

One day last summer, signing calendars at a mall, Pope saw two men approaching. "They had big bellies, worn faces and hands; their clothes were tattered. They clearly were manual laborers who'd been working in the dirt. They had tears in their eyes. These are men 40, 45 years old. It was the neatest thing because their tears were as genuine as our tears were when we lifted the national championship banner in Rupp Arena. To know that people feel the same way as you did, that's great. It's like our team was 200,000 people."

At another day's signing, Pope and teammates spent four hours in a bank. When the bank closed its doors, "people pressed their faces against the glass to see us." Leaving in a limousine, Pope saw people "running up alongside the limo, touching it. It's just adulation. It's a strange, wonderful place, Kentucky."

Pope says only Rick Pitino could have won a national championship at that strange, wonderful place. "He was brilliant. No matter how much people idolized us, no matter how much the press played us up, no matter how much pressure everyone thought we were under—he wouldn't let us carry that burden. It wasn't really a burden because we never felt it. He took it off us by creating our own world, separate from that Kentucky world."

Pitino said that on his arrival seven years ago he wanted to move Kentucky's basketball players out of the famous Wildcat Lodge, the ski chalet-like dormitory that is home to basketball's student athletes and, because of an NCAA rule aimed at the lodge, an equal number of just plain students.

"But Joe Hall convinced me it would be a mistake to move them out," Pitino said. Joe B. Hall succeeded Rupp as Kentucky's coach. He built Wildcat Lodge before winning the 1978 national championship. "And Joe was right—but not because the lodge was a perk. We couldn't put the players into the student population. They'd never get any academic work done because everyone would just want to talk about basketball."

So Pitino let the players stay in Wildcat Lodge. On another front, though, he made a significant change in the players' environment. Under both Hall and his successor, Eddie Sutton, the Kentucky locker room after games was open to friends, family and hangers-on of all stripes. Pitino slammed the door on these Very Important People.

Coming after severe NCAA penalties arising from violations during Sutton's tenure, Pitino's action did two things. It reminded camp followers who was in charge. And it affirmed for players the boundaries of their world. As Pitino put it, "Basically, I wanted to keep the players away from the adults around the program."

Now we're at Thomas More College, just south of Cincinnati, and the dinner with some nuns turns out to be a banquet in the college gymnasium with maybe 1,000 people paying $150 each to shake hands with the coach, stand with him for photographs and hear him speak for a half-hour.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Analyzing Pitino's job dalliances is risky, but it's safe to say he has found splendor in the bluegrass.

He's back in the van, rolling south through Kentucky, not at 9 or at 9:30 but just before 11. The national championship trophy rests again at his feet. At midnight, coming into Lexington, the coach asks his administrative assistant what time he is due at his basketball camp the next morning. "Eight," she says, and the sleepy, happy coach says, "I'll be there." ◆

Dave Kindred is a contributing writer for THE SPORTING NEWS.

TODD WARSHAW / ALLSPORT

SCOUTING THE NATION

Mike **DeCourcy**

Once upon a time, when John Wooden and Adolph Rupp ruled the college basketball world, a member of the Western Athletic Conference won the NCAA championship. Of course, Texas-El Paso wasn't a WAC member at the time. Texas-El Paso wasn't even Texas-El Paso. It was called Texas Western in 1966 and it competed as an independent.

There's a lot of history in this league; it's just that none of it qualifies as league history. Wyoming won the NCAA title in 1943 and Utah followed by taking the title in 1944, but the WAC didn't form until 1962. UNLV made four Final Fours between 1977 and 1991, winning it all in 1990, but the Rebels belonged to the Big West at the time. Ironically, the WAC made its only Final Four appearance in 1966, with Utah advancing the year Texas Western won it all.

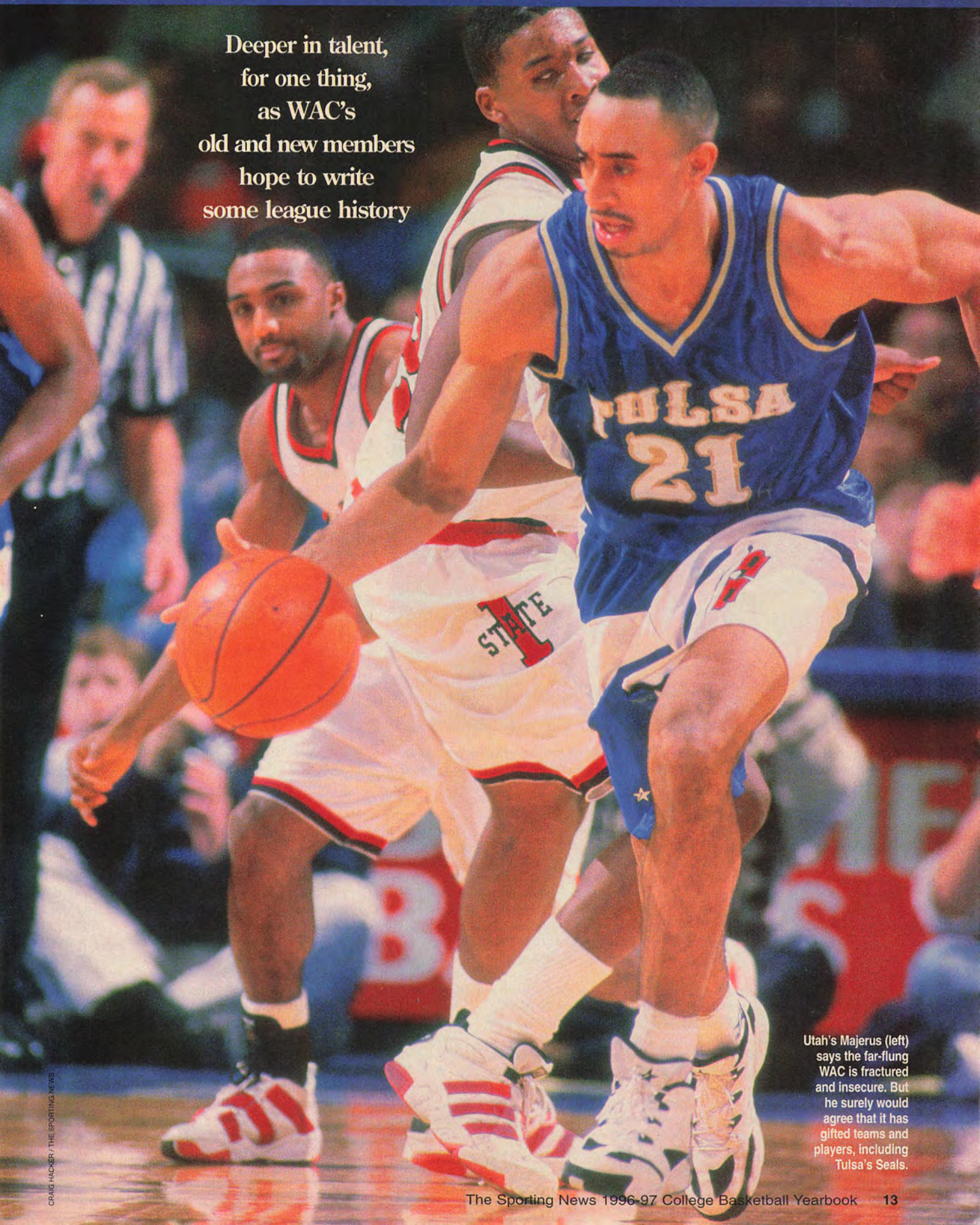
The present? Now that's another matter.

"We've cracked through," Utah athletic director Chris Hill says. "I'm not saying we're there yet, but we're establishing ourselves as having a lot of good teams. When you think of the Pac-10, you think of Arizona, UCLA and the others, and we're right there with that kind of thinking with our top schools."

It's appropriate that the WAC is thinking big. After all, it's now the nation's biggest league, with 16 teams stretching from the shores of Oahu to the Oklahoma plains. And with Utah (No. 4), Fresno State (11) and New Mexico (17) ranked among THE SPORTING NEWS Top 25 and Tulsa just waiting for someone to slip and create an opening, the WAC also could be one of the baddest. TSN thinks so, ranking the league fifth-best in the nation. Last year, TSN ranked the WAC No. 9.

Sixteen teams and what do you get?

Deeper in talent, for one thing, as WAC's old and new members hope to write some league history



Utah's Majerus (left) says the far-flung WAC is fractured and insecure. But he surely would agree that it has gifted teams and players, including Tulsa's Seals.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Epps is part of a guard rotation that is second to none, which is one reason Kentucky could win a second consecutive NCAA title. On the other hand, there are reasons the Wildcats might falter.

As the season begins, the WAC has three players who rank among the nation's best: Utah forward Keith Van Horn, Tulsa guard Shea Seals and New Mexico center Kenny Thomas. Fresno State welcomes two high school All-Americans, forward Terrance Roberson (who sat out last season under Prop 48 requirements) and guard Chris Herren (a transfer from Boston College). For the first time since the expansion of the NCAA Tournament made it possible, the WAC could have four entrants (Utah, New Mexico, Fresno, Tulsa) in the field. Rice, TCU or UNLV might make it five or six.

Still, this isn't a league without problems. Looking forward to that great Fresno-Utah game this season? Don't wait up. It's not on the schedule.

Why? Because the league is divided into two, eight-team divisions: the Pacific (Fresno, San Diego State, San Jose State, UNLV, Air Force, Colorado State, Wyoming and Hawaii) and the Mountain (Utah, BYU, New Mexico, UTEP, Tulsa, TCU, Rice and SMU). Each team's 16-game league schedule consists of home-and-home series against each division rival and one home-and-home against a team from the other division.

Fresno gets Rice. Utah gets Colorado State. New Mexico gets Hawaii. Tulsa gets San Jose. It's possible the difference between those opponents, if any develops, could decide the regular-season title. As for the league tournament, only the top six teams in each division will be invited, which should cause the other four to feel disenfranchised. The WAC will learn this season what the Big East discovered last season: 12 is company, 13 and over is a crowd.

"Our league is a fractured league," Utah coach Rick Majerus says. "We're never going to have a true champion. I thought we should have played every team once. One year here, one year on the road, and everybody would have to follow all 16 teams."

This doesn't bother Majerus nearly as much as the WAC's agreement to start some league games at 11 p.m. in the Central time zone so they can be the cap to ESPN's "Big Monday" tripleheader. "Nothing speaks more to the insecurity our league has about itself," Majerus says. He frets about the impact upon the players' schoolwork after they leave an arena at 2 a.m. on a school night and also about being on the streets of, say, Houston at that time.

"If it's a good deal, how come we're the only ones doing it?"

KENTUCKY HOME

He spent seven years coaching Kentucky and talking about the NBA. For that reason, and the millions of others waved under his nose each spring since arriving in Lexington in 1989, it never seemed Rick Pitino was long for the bluegrass. It was going to take a heck of an offer to get him away, and he'd first have to win an NCAA championship. But even without either, his departure always seemed imminent.

Finally, a national title and big-buck NBA offer came last spring ... and he stayed.

"I had the ultimate job," Pitino says.

It always has been easy to get the impression from Pitino he was using his NBA experience as a weapon. With his constant references to pro players, coaches and techniques, there was an air that he had been to the top during his two-year stint with the New York Knicks and now he was sharing what he learned with all the little people.

With Pitino having rejected $30 million to become owner/president/general manager/coach/nursemaid of the New Jersey Nets, it's no longer fair to view him as an interloper. He's a college guy, even if he dresses better than John Chaney and Bob Knight.

"I think I'm a little unsure of the college game right now. Every kid I'm recruiting has said, 'I'll be here a year or two.' I'm not sure what the college game really is," Pitino says. "We can't all paint what's going to happen tomorrow, but I would really love to stay at Kentucky as long as both parties are happy with each other, and then I would like to do some TV work and be a basketball analyst.

"I really enjoy that aspect of work. I'd like to coach maybe another 8-10 years and then do that as opposed to going to the pros. I want to stay involved in the game until I— until I croak."

THEY WILL, THEY WON'T

Sure, Kentucky had four players picked in the NBA draft, including three in the first round, but here are three reasons why the Wildcats could win a second consecutive NCAA title:

- 1. Ron Mercer. The secret buried beneath the Wildcats' string of tournament blowouts last March was that whenever they needed a big basket, Mercer was as likely as anyone to score it. A 6-7 sophomore forward who has uncommon patience for his age, he'll be a first-team All-American by season's end.
- 2. Guard depth. There aren't many teams with a better guard rotation than Anthony Epps, Jeff Sheppard, Derek Anderson and Wayne Turner. No, that's wrong. There are none.
- 3. Rick Pitino. After enduring criticism for trying to cook up a champion without a force in the low post, he won over his most stubborn detractors with a brilliant, season-long coaching performance.

On second thought, here are three reasons why Kentucky *won't* repeat:

- 1. Frontcourt flatfoots. Last year's edition had rabbits like

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- J. Taylor, Rockford, MI

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- M. King, Miami, FL

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- G. Blackwell, San Antonio, TX

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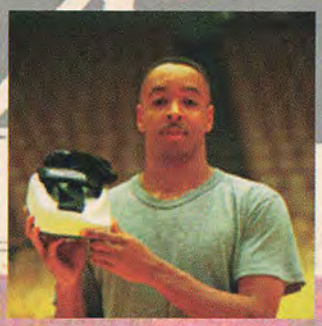
- A. Alm, Sweden



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Walter McCarty, Mark Pope and Antoine Walker playing the power positions, which energized Pitino's full-court press and gave double-teams extra bite. Jared Prickett, Jamaal Magloire, Oliver Simmons and Nazr Mohammed don't have such great legs.

• 2. Outside shooting. It used to be Kentucky was known as a team that took too many 3-pointers. Now, when the Wildcats need a few, where are they going to get them? Epps is accurate, but as a point guard, it's not a big part of his job description. Mercer and Anderson can hit from behind the arc but are more dangerous slashing to the basket.

• 3. The Cincinnati Bearcats.

PRACTICE DOESN'T MAKE PERFECT

It was there when it counted, but for some reason Arizona guard Miles Simon has not been able to relocate his touch on 75-foot jumpers.

Simon has tried and failed several times since last February to duplicate the shot from the opposite foul line he made at the buzzer to stun Cincinnati, 79-76, the most astounding moment from the 1995-96 season.

"We went to practice the next day, and I shot it one time," Simon says. "The very first one hit straight off the back of the rim, but since then, it's not even been close. It's hard to get it that far any more. I didn't realize back then how far it was."

One of the unusual aspects of Simon's big shot was that he threw up his arms immediately after he released the ball, as though he knew it would go in for the three points necessary to defeat the favored Bearcats. A little secret about that: "I think it's going in every time."

GET THESE SCHOOLS A SPOTLIGHT

Some programs, no matter what they've accomplished, don't pop up often among the hundreds of college basketball games televised nationally on ESPN and the networks. These are America's least wanted, the most underexposed programs:

• 1. Rhode Island. The Rams made the 1993 NCAA Tournament and last year's team won 20 games, but fewer people have seen them on TV than Olympic boxing.

• 2. South Carolina. The Gamecocks are being mentioned as a Southeastern Conference title contender, but if you know what BJ McKie looks like, it's from watching him play in the Hoop Summit game two years ago.

• 3. Washington. Star forward Mark Sanford bears a slight physical resemblance to former Maryland All-American Walt Williams. This observation was gleaned from a five-second highlight clip broadcast when Sanford decided to bolt the NBA draft and return for his junior season. Otherwise, who's seen Sanford and the Huskies play?

RULER FOR A DAY

It's time for some changes that would be good for the game, for a change. Get out a piece of paper, take this down and fire it off to Hank Nichols of the NCAA Men's Basketball Rules Committee:

• 1. Return to a 45-second shot clock. Defense has too much of an advantage in the college game with a 35-second cycle.

• 2. Move the 3-point line, as 19-9 just isn't far enough.

• 3. No more ticky-tack fouls in the final minute. Officials who call fouls simply because a defensive player taps a ballhandler in an effort to stop the clock should have their whistles confiscated. If no advantage is gained when physical contact is made, it's not a foul. Period. The team that spends 38 minutes building a lead should not be penalized for superiority.

MOVING ON UP

Although most established programs prefer to hire experienced coaches, some gifted assistants get a deserved chance each year. These guys appear ready to assume Chair No. 1 on the bench:

• 1. Tom Crean, Michigan State. If you want players in your program, this may be the guy. No one has been involved in the signing of more big-time recruits in the past two seasons. He helped attract Pitt's loaded 1995 class and a fine group for the Spartans (including point guard Mateen Cleaves) last winter.

• 2. Tommy Amaker, Duke. He has learned plenty from coach Mike Krzyzewski and has been a hot candidate for a while, but Amaker has been picky about finding the right situation.

• 3. John Loyer, Cincinnati. Although he's just a few years removed from the "part-time" designation, Loyer made the least money because he was the youngest Bearcats coach—not the least important. Coach Bob Huggins deeply trusts Loyer's knowledge of the game, and has for a long time. With good reason.

• 4. Mike Anderson, Arkansas. One of the most effective recruiters in college basketball, he can help spread the "40 Minutes of Hell" gospel to the unconverted.

• 5. Dan Dakich, Indiana. Anyone who's spent this much time around Bob Knight (four years as a player, two as a graduate assistant, nine as a full-time assistant) has got to know the game. And, unlike his boss, he frequently has been spotted on the road evaluating recruits.

MADDENING MARCH

Purdue's pursuit of a third consecutive outright Big Ten title, the first such run since Ohio State turned the trick from 1960-62, appeared to generate a lot of positive publicity for the program last season. Four in a row wouldn't be bad, either, but with the league supposedly in a lull, the Boilermakers have other concerns.

"We're always trying to do the best we can in the league," coach Gene Keady says, "but I'm not really worried about that. We'd like to get to the NCAA and do something for once. That's probably our main priority."

Under Keady, Purdue reached the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 in 1988 and advanced to the Elite Eight in 1994. The Boilermakers' other 10 tournament appearances under Keady have ended in the first or second round. As a No. 1 seed last season, the Boilers came within a whisker of being the first No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 when they sneaked by Western Carolina, 73-71. Purdue fell to Georgia in round two, 76-69.

"We won three in a row, and everybody says, 'Well, big deal. The Big Ten's no good.' Unless you win big in the NCAA," says Keady, who's won six Big Ten titles in 16 seasons, "you're not considered to be a very good team. It's amazing how that works now."

SHORT AND SWEET

After the big noise Stephon Marbury made in the NBA draft after his freshman season at Georgia Tech, when he was picked fourth overall, expect these three to follow his one-year-and-out example:

• 1. Lester Earl, F, LSU: His body is mature enough, but his game isn't—yet. If he makes a couple dozen 10-footers in the course of the season, he'll figure he's ready.

• 2. Tim Thomas, F, Villanova: Had he really wanted to be a part of the college basketball scene, he'd have quieted conjecture last season about bolting from Paterson (N.J.) Catholic High to the pros. If he gets enough shots away from Chuck Kornegay and Jason Lawson to make an impact, he'll be gone by May.

• 3. Winfred Walton, F, Syracuse: Some believe he'll be national freshman of the year because he so thoroughly understands how to get the ball to the goal and where to find loose rebounds. He produces. Something about him says he's a two-year player, but peer pressure could convince him to go the Marbury route.

MOVING ON

These five transfers should have the biggest impact on their new teams:

• 1. Prince Fowler, G, TCU: Quick, strong, creative and hard-working, he would have fit perfectly in Kelvin Sampson's system at Oklahoma. He played well as a freshman, and Fowler was determined to play for Billy Tubbs even if it meant following him to Fort Worth.

• 2. Paul Grant, C, Wisconsin: He's big, skilled and has the footwork of a forward, the position he played at Boston College. He'll set nice screens and make those open foul-line jumpers in coach Dick Bennett's offense.

• 3. Sunday Adebayo, F, Memphis: His decision to join the Tigers after being ruled ineligible at Arkansas might have saved Memphis from a second losing season in the past four years. He may even be enough to return the Tigers to the NCAA Tournament for a third consecutive time.

• 4. Steve Hart, G, Indiana State: A cover-the-court athlete with a questionable jump shot had no business playing for Bob Knight. But a few miles up Highway 46 at Indiana State, he could be the ingre-

dient to turn a veteran team into a winner. The Sycamores return four starters from last season's 10-16 team. Coach Sherman Dillard wants to employ an up-tempo style that should suit Hart, a Terre Haute native.

• 5. Chris Herren, G, Fresno State: Those who've seen him in shape—a rare sighting, to tell the truth—claim Herren is a bulldozer who can overwhelm opponents. A shoulder injury cost him his freshman season at Boston College, and he left the program after a stormy redshirt year. If he isn't prepared to take advantage of this second chance, shame on him.

KNIGHT WATCH

As a senior at Seton Hall Prep in East Orange, N.J., point guard Brevin Knight couldn't even convince his high school's college adjunct he was a major-college prospect. Knight was not rated among the Top 150 players nationally in his class.

Four years later, he is at least the nation's second-best point guard and may be prepared to fight Kansas' Jacque Vaughn for the title. At the very least, Knight's 5-10 frame makes him this year's top contender for the Frances Pomeroy Naismith Award, presented by the Basketball Hall of Fame to the best college player under 6-0. Stanford coach Mike Montgomery is happy he took a chance on Knight.

"I think the thing in a lot of people's minds is that he was not a Division I basketball player, and I think deep in his mind that's really what he thought, that he would just be OK and maybe he wouldn't play," Montgomery says. "That first year, he just proved everybody wrong."

Montgomery points out Knight is just 20 years old as he begins his senior year. "So you're still a year away from probably seeing the finished product. The thing you didn't like about him, his size, has been answered," Montgomery says. "He's the quickest guy I've ever coached with the ball. He really moves it out there."

LITTLE BIG TIME

Not all of the best players are in the ACC, SEC and Big East. If any of these guys from mid- and low-major teams happens by your town this season, check them out:

• 1. Bubba Wells, F, Austin Peay: A powerful player who has a great 3-point touch but uses it sparingly, Wells is the nation's leading returning scorer (26.3).

• 2. Terquin Mott, F/C, Coppin State: After declaring for the NBA draft, then changing his mind, Mott should resume working over MEAC opponents on the inside. The La Salle transfer averaged 19 points and shot 63.8 percent from the field last season.

• 3. Vincent Rainey, G/F, Murray State: He was overshadowed by Marcus Brown, a second-round NBA pick last June, but the spotlight is his after averaging 19.4 points last season.

FALSE ADVERTISING

These three freshmen won't have the immediate impact one might expect from players rated so highly:

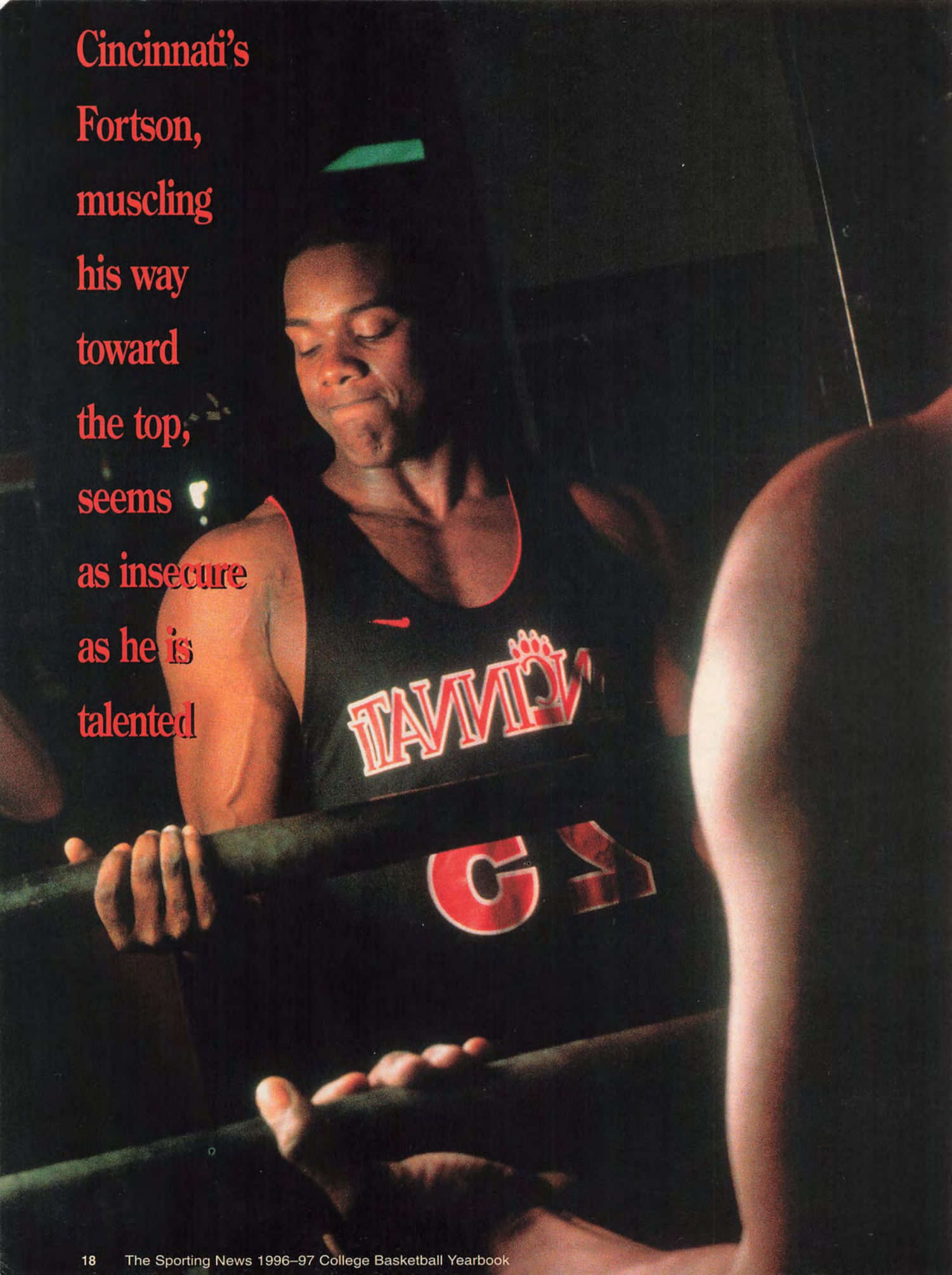
• 1. Vassil Evtimov, F, North Carolina: Some coaches fell in love with his strength and shooting ability, but Evtimov spends too much time on the perimeter and doesn't make proper use of his bulk. He'll have to compete for playing time against established sophomores Antawn Jamison and Ademola Okulaja.

• 2. Charles Hathaway, C, Tennessee: Although he is a talent, Hathaway is something of a project. Scouts were enamored by his sculpted 6-10 frame, but he has to learn more about how to play. Hathaway has the right coach for the job. Kevin O'Neill helped develop Jim McIlvaine and Steve Hamer, who had much less talent, into NBA draft choices.

• 3. Nate James, F, Duke: Although he's a fine athlete, James' selection as a McDonald's All American was out of line with his skills. He certainly should not take minutes from Ricky Price. ◆

Mike DeCourcy covers college basketball for The Commercial Appeal in Memphis and writes a weekly column for THE SPORTING NEWS.

Easy baskets like this helped Austin Peay's Wells average 26.3 points last season. He's the leading returning scorer in the country.


Cincinnati's Fortson, muscling his way toward the top, seems as insecure as he is talented

BY STEVE HARRISON

I'm Good... *Right?*

What you first hear about Danny Fortson isn't the size of his biceps, as pot roast-like as they are. Nor is it his celebrity status in a major league town—"He's bigger than Jeff Blake," says Fortson's coach, Bob Huggins. And it's not his splendid chance to help Cincinnati win an NCAA championship this season.

No, what you first hear is how Danny Fortson wants to know what you've heard about Danny Fortson. Which is to say that Fortson, at heart, is like many of us, a self-conscious kid. Only more so.

One evening this summer, I phoned him at his apartment, which he shares with Bearcats teammate Bobby Brannen, a fellow junior and his roommate since they were freshmen. Having visited with Fortson a week earlier, I now wanted to talk about the upcoming NBA draft and ask if he had second thoughts about staying in school while so many peers were turning pro. In seconds, though, the conversation drifted elsewhere.

I told Fortson that I had talked to his trainer, Dave Guidugli, who works with the player on his footwork and flexibility.

"Oh, yeah?" Fortson said. "What did he say?"

"Well, that you worked hard. You were a great kid. Would make a great player someday."

"Huh. Who else did you talk to?"

"Your mom."

"What did she say?"

"She said you started playing basketball when you were little. She talked about how, when you were 8, you were growing so much your feet hurt."

"Who else?"

"Coach Harrison." (Fortson's position coach at UC, Larry Harrison.)

"What did he say?"

"Said you worked hard. And said you were always wondering how you were doing, asking what people thought. ..."

Truth is, insecurity can be a blessing. You could ignore the scouts, the press and talk radio's supposed experts and find some peace. But can you find perfection that way?

During and after his sophomore season of 1995-96, Fortson debated whether he should go pro. But after doing his own reconnaissance work—badgering coaches and reporters about how the NBA perceived him—he recoiled, returning to school. He would have gone in the first round in June, no doubt. But not in the top five, his goal. So now he is among college basketball's elite players (if not its best) in a 1996-97 season gutted of rising stars. Danny Fortson, far from a household name, is now on the college game's marquee.

"I ain't scared about the NBA," Fortson says. "It still seems I have something to prove to a lot of people. I still hear stuff: 'He can't play against tall, athletic centers.' But I scored 25 and had 17 rebounds against Memphis. So put that down."

"Danny doesn't have as much self-confidence as he likes to portray," Huggins says. "He hears people say that he can't run, can't jump. And he hates to hear what he can't do."

First of all, who *is* Danny Fortson? Perhaps he remains relatively unknown because he has yet to capture basketball fans' imagination. Which is understandable. The first three months of last season were about discovering Stephon and Shareef, not to mention Kobe, because we had lost Rasheed, Jerry and Joe. And now a new season is here. Bring on the babes.

Fortson, at 6-7 and 260 pounds, is an imposing figure. (He once went to a Steelers game wearing a football jersey and fans asked if he was a new tight end.) He has been rumored to be a couple of inches taller—if, in fact, he were 6-9, he already would have been labeled the next Karl Malone—but even at 6-7, most people know he's a basketball player and those who don't will think it's cute to stop him in the supermarket and ask if he is. He's impossible to miss: UC baseball cap, jean shorts that fan out like a kilt, clown-sized Nikes and a tattoo on his right biceps that says "Danny." ("Ain't too many black kids named Danny," he says.)

Fortson's popularity in the Queen City is due not only to his talent, but his affable—and some

ROBERT SEALE / THE SPORTING NEWS

times vulnerable—personality. People like him. His disarming baby face doesn't hurt, either.

He came to Cincinnati in the fall of 1994 as Huggins' top recruit, a product of Shaler High School in Pittsburgh, where he had the strength to bull past the opposition. As hardy a specimen as he was, though, he came down with pneumonia just before his first practice at UC and was hospitalized for a week. When he was released after pestering and begging his doctors, he had to carry a portable IV for three weeks. He took it to class and to the gym to watch practice.

Fortson wondered if he could get his game back. After losing nearly 25 pounds, he played in the season opener against Austin Peay and scored 25 points. The rest of his freshman year, Fortson lumbered inside the paint, doing what he wanted, and averaged 15.1 points and 7.6 rebounds. He also was foul-prone, being whistled for 3.5 infractions per game.

In the 1995 Great Midwest Tournament opener against DePaul, Fortson made the game-tying basket, then sank five of six free throws in overtime as the Bearcats won a squeaker. In a two-point triumph in the championship game, he hung 31 points on Saint Louis. He was named tournament MVP.

But that May, there was a blip of sorts on Fortson's UC resume. It came in the form of the now-legendary Art Long/Danny Fortson/Cody-the-horse misadventure. Long, then a Cincinnati junior, allegedly punched Cody, a police horse being ridden at the time by an officer. Long and Fortson were arrested, Fortson for being disorderly while intoxicated. Both players were found not guilty.

Having endured that offseason incident, Fortson returned to the court with considerable resolve and focus—and his game blossomed in the new Conference USA. He still could become lost in a zone defense, but he no longer needed to lean on his defender to score. His footwork improved. He was able to grab rebounds that fell away from his body. He averaged 20.1 points and 9.6 rebounds last season and went on a 40-point, 17-rebound spree against city rival Xavier. The Bearcats rode Fortson piggyback to the Southeast Regional final, where Fortson admits Cincinnati was "a little cocky going in." Mississippi State won, 73-63, and advanced to the Final Four.

"He's been a go-to guy since he got there," Saint Louis coach Charlie Spoonhour says. "He probably runs the floor better now than he did when he first got there. And if he catches the ball, you are in trouble because he is so strong. You can try and front him, but since he has extended his range that always doesn't work. And when you do, your defense often breaks down because he is such a fine rebounder."

After narrowly missing the Final Four, Cincinnati is a solid contender for the national championship this season and is No. 1 in THE SPORTING NEWS preseason rankings. Besides Fortson, starting guard Damon Flint also returns. Further brightening the outlook is the addition of four heralded JC imports: forward Ruben Patterson, guards D'Juan Baker and Charles Williams and center Jermaine Thomas (expected to be eligible the second semester).

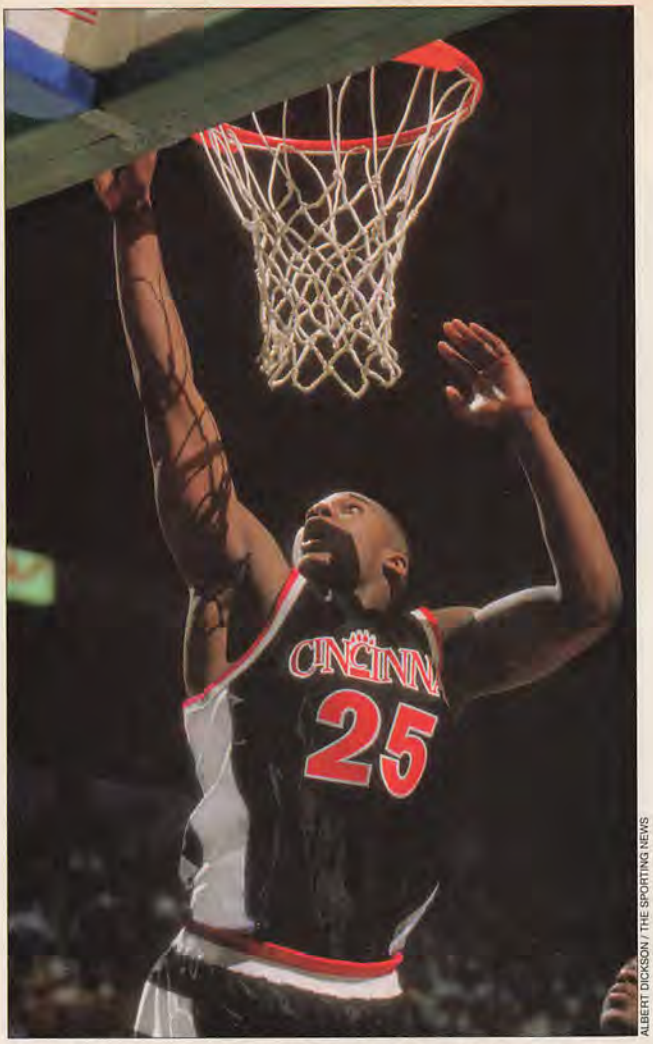
Make no mistake, though. With Long having departed, Fortson will carry the Bearcats' inside game. Was there ever any indication he might not be back to lead the way?

"Danny was never going anywhere," Huggins says. "Danny's not a dumb kid. Dan wants to do what's right. He came in my office and said, 'What do you think?' He said, 'I don't want to go until I am ready. I don't want to sit on the bench and I don't want to be a spectator. When I go, I want to make an impact.' "

Deloris Fortson told the youngest of her three children that he could play in the NBA. At the time, Danny Fortson had just begun playing basketball in a second-grade youth league in his hometown of Altoona, Pa. He had a premature dunking fixation. In games, he wouldn't dribble but instead grabbed the ball and ran to the 7-foot goal and tried to slam. Soon, he was growing so fast that his ankles and feet were hurting. A doctor placed special pads in his shoes, and Fortson was back playing, through the pain. And dribbling.

In junior high, he played football and basketball. As a tight end, he developed soft hands that proved helpful on the court, but he decided he was through with football. He got tired of sweating in August, then having a cold November wind sting his body. He already was showing promise in basketball, having been bumped up from the middle-school team to the Altoona varsity. And there was Doug West, the local kid who made good at Villanova and in the NBA.

West, an Altoona High School alum, came home after signing



ALBERT DICKSON / THE SPORTING NEWS

Fortson is an imposing Bearcat who is a real bear inside, but the coaching staff wants the 6-7, 260-pounder to step outside and pop in some 15-footers.

with the Minnesota Timberwolves. He wore flashy jewelry and drove a new Acura with a phone. Fortson never had much money—today he's car-less and bristles when he sees a Cincinnati jersey with his number 25 in a store window, knowing the sale of such merchandise will never benefit him—so West's visit was a revelation.

"We grew up in the same neighborhood, and when he came back he had a lot more than we were used to," Fortson says. "That's when I decided to play in the NBA."

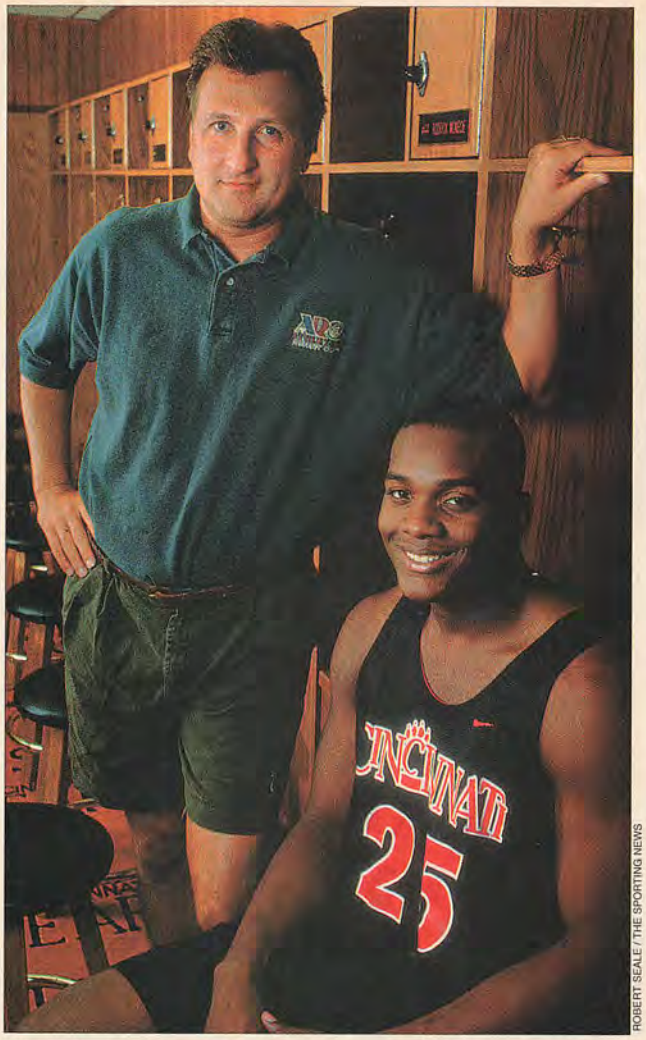
The summer after he finished the ninth grade, Danny met Justin Stright—now a junior guard at Duquesne—at the Keystone Games in Allentown, Pa. Justin's father, J.O. Stright, a Pittsburgh businessman, invited Fortson to play on his AAU team. Fortson moved two hours away, from Altoona to Pittsburgh, for the summer and lived with the Strights.

"He had a job," J.O. Stright says. "It was cutting grass, sweeping floors for $5 an hour. He didn't need the work but he asked for the job because he wanted to have his own spending money. That tells you something about what kind of kid he is."

During Fortson's junior year in high school, his parents were splitting up after a troubled marriage. Deloris wanted to leave Altoona and Danny agreed to go. They moved to Pittsburgh, and Danny enrolled at Shaler, where Justin played and J.O. was a school booster. Fortson played two games, scoring a total of more than 60 points, before state athletic officials ruled that he had transferred with athletic intent, which was against state rules. After a very public and very messy fight, Fortson was ruled ineligible and couldn't compete the rest of his junior year.

"He didn't want to tell the truth (about the move out of Altoona)," says the elder Stright, who became Fortson's guardian. "He didn't want people to know about his family."

Fortson was a 17-year-old in a new high school—a mostly white school—in a new city with his name in the newspapers for the wrong reasons. It was a miserable year. When he returned for his



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Cincinnati coach Huggins stands by his man, Fortson, a player who has benefited from Huggins' tough love (otherwise known as verbal abuse).

senior season, he was taunted for missing a year and struggling to make his SAT score. Yet he averaged 29.8 points and 13.6 rebounds.

"He came back a man on a mission," Shaler basketball coach Jay Barto says. "You see, based on his background, he was always looking for someone to tell him he was doing the right thing instead of the wrong thing. He wanted to prove to everyone in western Pennsylvania that he was an impact player."

"He really worries what people think," Justin says. "In high school, he was always asking, 'What do you think of this outfit?' Or, 'How do I look?' He doesn't want anyone hating him."

For college, Fortson considered Duquesne, located in Pittsburgh, but he preferred a fresh start. After narrowing his choices to Massachusetts, Michigan and Cincinnati, Fortson decided to play for Huggins, who had personally recruited him since his freshman year. Fortson and J.O. Stright thought Huggins' tough love—Fortson now calls it "verbal abuse"— would push him.

Since Fortson arrived at UC, there has been an informal team helping to sculpt his incredible potential. This season, Huggins and Harrison are creating Danny Fortson, renaissance player. Mickey Marotti, the Bearcats' strength and conditioning coach, is still creating Danny Fortson, Mr. Universe. And Guidugli, a local fitness guru, is creating Danny Fortson, nimble featherweight.

Huggins and Harrison want Fortson to step out and shoot from 15 feet. This could be incongruous with what seems best for the Bearcats—they will need Fortson banging away inside like a metronome, not playing 3-point artist—but for now, they want him to extend his game. The best motivation they have discovered is the naysaying in the media and the NBA. One day last spring, for instance, Fortson stormed into Harrison's office waving a newspaper. Who was this Marty Blake guy, Fortson wondered. Blake, Harrison explained calmly, is the director of scouting for the NBA. Undaunted, Fortson asked why Blake had said in a newspaper story that he couldn't yet play in the NBA, that he should stay in school.

"I told him the reaction you are showing is the reaction he wanted you to get," Harrison says. "Danny then said, 'I don't care about him.' But he does.

"He knows the inside is his bread and butter, but if he can learn to step out, then next year, or whenever he goes, he can have more of a complete game. Danny is 6-7. If he were 6-9, he wouldn't be here. The way NBA people see him as a power forward ... he will have to add to his game. He'll have to shoot and put the ball on the floor to create some space."

Marotti subjects the Bearcats to perhaps the most intense workouts found in any basketball program. He is a perfect complement to Huggins, the drill sergeant. When you lift, Marotti gets in your face. He has been known to throw things. If you aren't lifting up to potential, he also has been known to bounce you from the weight room. "You will get dizzy," he says, "and feel like crap."

Although he was relatively strong upon his arrival in Cincinnati, Fortson nonetheless was pushed around in his first year. Fortson missed preseason workouts while playing in all-star games after graduation, and his bout with pneumonia weakened him as well.

"So that next summer I went one-on-one with him," Marotti says. "I tried to kill him mentally and physically. He blew up over those three months. He's got great genetics, but he cared about getting better. That's the difference between guys like him and the ones sitting on the bench at the end of a game."

As a result, Fortson's size and strength have become sports-bar talk: how his bench press is now 325 pounds, his leg press is 900 pounds. Which makes him only the *third*-strongest Cincinnati basketball player, behind Rodrick Monroe and Brannen.

Despite his physical prowess, Fortson will remove his shirt and wonder if he's fat. Such a thought is ridiculous, of course, considering the taut muscles across his chest. He has spent countless days squatting, thrusting, rowing, benching. Marotti tells him, "No, you look pretty good, *just keep working.*" So Fortson does.

Although Marotti and Fortson worship the muscle-building anthem of "If you aren't growing, you're dying," it's Guidugli's responsibility to make Fortson light on his feet. Fortson and Guidugli jog together. Fortson jumps rope and boxes in a gym across the Ohio River in Kentucky. He runs and jumps. Guidugli hopes to improve his foot speed, lateral quickness and flexibility. The idea is to become more Charles Barkley, less Corliss Williamson.

"What I'm trying to do is create in his mind that he will have to create different things when he plays next year," Guidugli says. "Contact is now his game, but he needs to create more to be successful."

Fortson is coming off an enjoyable "offseason." He played summer league basketball, dreamed of playing in the NBA in California or Texas or Arizona (anywhere warm and in the West), goofed around. He took just two classes, psychology and computer science ("keyboarding," Fortson calls it), so homework was light and life was good.

Fortson acknowledges he doesn't really care for school. "You might as well be honest with yourself," he says. "A lot of kids who left early for the NBA felt the same way about school as I do, but they just didn't say it. Anytime I think about school or am sitting in class, I'm thinking about the NBA."

Some of Fortson's best games last season came against teams with NBA-bound underclassmen. He got those 25 points and 17 boards against Memphis and sophomore Lorenzen Wright; 21 points and nine rebounds against Louisville and sophomore Samaki Walker; and 16 points against California and freshman Shareef Abdur-Rahim.

"I'm sure he's thinking about those guys," Harrison says. "If Lorenzen can go and Samaki can go, I'm sure Danny is thinking, 'Man, I'm better than them.' "

"There are a lot of kids who went to the NBA last year," Fortson says. "But the money can wait. Nothing ever has been easy for me. I think God is going to bless me in the end."

"In spite of the impression Danny gives," Huggins says, "Danny doesn't know how good he is."

By now, chances are Danny Fortson *does* realize the scope of his remarkable ability. But that won't stop him from asking. ◆

Steve Harrison is a free-lance writer based in Baton Rouge, La.

The Game You'd Expect From America's Sport Authority

'96-97

The Sporting News FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE $10,000

$10,000 Cash Grand Prize

How To Play

Pick a team of 13 starters using a $30,000,000 salary cap

ROSTER

- Starting team consists of 13 players:
  5 Guards 5 Forwards 3 Centers
- Starting team's salary cannot exceed the $30,000,000 salary cap at any time.
- Taxi squad consists of any 9 players. They are your backups and may be switched onto your starting team for any reason: injury, not performing well, etc.
- Salary cap and position distribution rules do not apply for the taxi squad, but do apply when switched onto the starting team.
- Unlisted players may be placed on your taxi squad. Their salary will be $750,000. They must be on your taxi squad until Nov. 10th.

LEAGUE FORMATION

- Leagues and divisions are formed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 25 teams form a league. 10 leagues form a division.
- All teams compete for the overall grand prize.
- Teams may have many of the same players, but no two teams with the same roster will be in the same league.
- Play in the same league with your friend(s). Call 1-800-568-6288 for details.

REPORTS

- We calculate your league, division & overall position every week.
- Receive a five-page report weekly or bi-weekly. You automatically receive bi-weekly reports with your entry.
- First reports mailed Nov. 12th.
- Updated league rosters and top 5 in your division & top 5 overall sent every 6 weeks.
- Fax service available. Call 1-800-568-6288 for details.
- Reports also available via the Internet.

ENTRY DEADLINES

- Entries must be phoned or faxed by Thurs., Oct. 31, 1996.
- Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than Oct. 31, 1996 and received no later than Tues., Nov. 5, 1996.

Play Fantasy Basketball on the Internet. See us at cdmnet.com/fsi/hoops

4 WAYS TO EARN CASH PRIZES

- ***League*** *(1 in 5 earn cash)*
- ***Division*** *(1 in 10 earn more cash)*
- ***Overall*** *(Top 25 earn lots of cash)*
- ***Weekly*** *(Top team earns $100)*

1 in 25 will earn at least $500 Cash

Place	Overall Prizes (all entries)	Division Prizes (250 teams)	League Prizes (25 teams)
1st	$10,000	$1,000	$500
2nd	$5,000	$500	$200
3rd	$2,500	$250	$100
4th	$1,000	$100	$50
5th	$750	$75	$25
6th to 10th	$500	$50	
11th to 15th	$250	$30	
16th to 25th	$100	$20	

Plus $100 will be awarded to the overall leader each week*
beginning with stats through Nov. 10th.

More Cash Prize Winners Than Any Other National Challenge

COST TO PLAY

- $79.00 for an entry postmarked by Oct. 12, 1996.
- $89.00 for an entry postmarked after Oct. 12, 1996.
- $69.00 for each additional entry.
- $10.00 for reports to be mailed to a second address.
- $10.00 per address per team for reports to be mailed weekly rather than bi-weekly.

TRANSACTION FEES

- To make player transactions, a toll-free 800 number and an account number will be provided.
- The transaction fees are as follows:

Changes until Oct. 31st	$1 each
Taxi Squad Switch (unlimited)	$2.50 each
New Player Purchase (limit 7)	$10 each
TSN Free Agent (limit 3)	No Charge

- ***Player transactions must be made by Sunday, 11 PM Central Time to be effective the following Monday.***

SCORING

- Each team will be ranked within its league, division and overall using the Rotisserie® ranking method and

11 Scoring Categories

3-Point Field Goals Made	Defensive Rebounds
2-Point Field Goals Made	Steals
Free Throws Made	Turnovers
Total Points Scored	Personal Fouls
Offensive Rebounds	Blocked Shots
Assists	

- Teams are ranked by comparing their team totals to the other teams in their league. The team with the best total in each category will receive 25 points and the team with the worst will receive 1 point.
- Division points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus the other 250 teams' statistics totals in your division.
- Overall points are calculated by ranking your team's statistics totals versus all other entries' in ***The Sporting News™ Fantasy Basketball Challenge.***
- Stats are accumulated weekly for all 13 starting players. The stat week begins with games played on Monday and ends with games played on Sunday.
- All statistics accumulated by the players on the starting team, regardless of what position they play during the season, contribute to a team's statistics totals.
- Taxi squad players' stats do not contribute to your team's stat totals.
- Previous stats by a player before he was on your roster do not count.
- A player's statistics are added to your team's statistics totals only during the weeks that he is on your starting team.
- Pre-season, all-star, and play-off statistics do not contribute to your team's statistics totals.

Sports commissioners are waiting to answer your questions and enter your team. Call 1-800-568-6288

- ***The Sporting News™ Fantasy Basketball Challenge*** welcomes entries from around the world. All fees, however, must be paid with U.S. funds. For Canadian, Mexican and overseas entries, please add $15 to cover additional mailing costs. If needed, our toll number is 1-314-991-1511.
- No employees of CDM, Inc., The Sporting News Publishing Company, or their families are eligible to play.
- CDM, Inc. is a licensee of The Sporting News Publishing Company, and is solely responsible for enacting, administering, enforcing the rules, and maintaining the integrity of ***The Challenge.***
- CDM, Inc. reserves the right to revise any rules to improve ***The Sporting News™ Fantasy Basketball Challenge.***
- CDM, Inc. is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.
- Further explanation of all rules will be contained in your Welcome Package.

Refer a Friend and Get $10 Credit

The Sporting News

FANTASY BASKETBALL CHALLENGE

Player Salaries

Guards

ID	Player	Team	Sal
101	JORDAN, MICHAEL	CHI	4780
102	BLAYLOCK, MOOKIE	ATL	3830
103	HARDAWAY, ANFERNEE	ORL	3400
104	RICHMOND, MITCH	SAC	3370
105	KIDD, JASON	DAL	3310
106	RICE, GLEN	CHA	3300
107	SPREWELL, LATRELL	GS	3270
108	STOCKTON, JOHN	UTA	3260
109	MAJERLE, DAN	NA	3120
110	ANDERSON, NICK	ORL	3070
111	PAYTON, GARY	SEA	3060
112	MILLER, REGGIE	IND	3050
113	DREXLER, CLYDE	HOU	3010
114	STOUDAMIRE, DAMON	TOR	2970
115	HARDAWAY, TIM	MIA	2940
116	ANDERSON, KENNY	POR	2880
117	BARROS, DANA	BOS	2840
118	STACKHOUSE, JERRY	PHI	2760
119	VAN EXEL, NICK	LAK	2750
120	SMITH, STEVE	ATL	2750
121	HAWKINS, HERSEY	SEA	2700
122	STRICKLAND, ROD	WAS	2660
123	SCOTT, DENNIS	ORL	2650
124	HORNACEK, JEFF	UTA	2570
125	FINLEY, MICHAEL	PHO	2450
126	CURRY, DELL	CHA	2450
127	STARKS, JOHN	NY	2430
128	JACKSON, JIMMY	DAL	2380
129	MAXWELL, VERNON	PHI	2310
130	RIDER, ISAIAH	POR	2290
131	MURDOCK, ERIC	VAN	2260
132	BROWN, DEE	BOS	2250
133	JONES, EDDIE	LAK	2230
134	DUMARS, JOE	DET	2140
135	ARMSTRONG, B.J	GS	2110
136	JACKSON, MARK	DEN	2110
137	BRANDON, TERRELL	CLE	2090
138	ABDUL-RAUF, MAHMOU	SAC	2090
139	AUGMON, STACEY	DET	2080
140	HARPER, DEREK	DAL	2050
141	ELLIS, DALE	DEN	2030
142	JOHNSON, AVERY	SA	1980
143	JOHNSON, KEVIN	PHO	1980
144	HARPER, RON	CHI	1980
145	STITH, BRYANT	DEN	1970
146	HOUSTON, ALLAN	NY	1970
147	PERSON, WESLEY	PHO	1960
148	BARRY, BRENT	LAC	1940
149	ROBERTSON, ALVIN	TOR	1920
150	GILL, KENDALL	NJ	1900
151	EDNEY, TYUS	SAC	1800
152	WILLIAMS, REGGIE	IND	1770
153	SMITH, KENNY	HOU	1750
154	WEBB, SPUD	MIN	1720
155	DOUGLAS, SHERMAN	MLW	1710
156	CHAPMAN, REX	MIA	1690
157	DEL NEGRO, VINNY	SA	1680
158	MCMILLAN, NATE	SEA	1680
159	PHILLS, BOBBY	CLE	1670
160	PORTER, TERRY	MIN	1660
161	ANTHONY, GREG	VAN	1640
162	RICHARDSON, POOH	LAC	1600
163	PRICE, MARK	GS	1600
164	EHLO, CRAIG	SEA	1560
165	ROSE, JALEN	DEN	1560
166	COLES, BIMBO	GS	1560
167	EDWARDS, BLUE	VAN	1550
168	PRICE, BRENT	HOU	1550
169	CHILDS, CHRIS	NY	1540
170	KERR, STEVE	CHI	1500
171	HUNTER, LINDSEY	DET	1450
172	CASSELL, SAM	PHO	1450
173	SHAW, BRIAN	ORL	1440
174	DAVIS, HUBERT	TOR	1440
175	SCOTT, BYRON	VAN	1430
176	WILKINS, GERALD	ORL	1420
177	BOGUES, TYRONE	CHA	1410
178	WESLEY, DAVID	BOS	1340
179	THREATT, SEDALE	LAK	1330
180	ELIE, MARIO	HOU	1330
181	DEHERE, TERRY	LAC	1310
182	SKILES, SCOTT	PHI	1270
183	PEELER, ANTHONY	VAN	1250
184	ASKEW, VINCENT	NJ	1230
185	ANDERSON, WILLIE	NY	1200

Guards (cont)

ID	Player	Team	Sal
186	MCKIE, AARON	POR	1150
187	LEGLER, TIM	WAS	1130
188	PERRY, ELLIOT	PHO	1120
189	PACK, ROBERT	NJ	1110
190	EDWARDS, KEVIN	NJ	1100
191	MAYBERRY, LEE	MLW	1090
192	WEST, DOUG	MIN	1090
193	HARRIS, LUCIOUS	DAL	1080
194	ROBINSON, JAMES	MIN	1080
195	REEVES, KHALID	NJ	1060
196	MARCIULIONIS, S	DEN	1040
197	GAMBLE, KEVIN	SAC	1040
198	SURA, BOB	CLE	1010
199	RUFFIN, TREVOR	PHI	990
200	WORKMAN, HAYWOOD	IND	920
201	ADAMS, MICHAEL	CHA	920
202	DUMAS, TONY	DAL	920
203	PIERCE, RICKY	IND	890
204	SMITH, TONY	MIA	890
205	MINOR, GREG	BOS	880
206	MYERS, PETE	CHA	840
207	BUTLER, MITCHELL	WAS	840
208	BARRY, JON	ATL	800
209	RIVERS, GLENN	SA	780
210	MALONE, JEFF	MIA	720
211	WILLIAMS, MICHEAL	MIN	720
212	BULLARD, SCOTT	DAL	710
213	RESPERT, SHAWN	MLW	680
214	FLEMING, VERN	NJ	670
215	GRANT, GARY	NY	660
216	ADDISON, RAFAEL	CHA	650
217	BOWIE, ANTHONY	ORL	650
218	OVERTON, DOUG	DEN	640
219	BROWN, RANDY	CHI	630
220	WALTERS, REX	PHI	620
221	MARTIN, DARRICK	MIN	600
222	SMITH, CHRIS	MIN	580
223	RECASNER, ELDRIDGE	HOU	570
224	HIGGINS, SEAN	PHI	560
225	SUTTON, GREG	PHI	550
226	MILLEN, LAWRENCE	VAN	540
227	DAVIS, MARK	MIN	530
228	BULLARD, MATT	ATL	520
229	KING, JIMMY	DAL	520
230	FERRELL, DUANE	IND	510
231	DANILOVIC, PREDRAG	MIA	510
232	GRAHAM, GREG	NJ	500

Forwards

ID	Player	Team	Sal
301	MALONE, KARL	UTA	4010
302	PIPPEN, SCOTTIE	CHI	3840
303	BROWN, SHAWN	SEA	3430
304	BARKLEY, CHARLES	HOU	3390
305	ROBINSON, CLIFF	POR	3320
306	SMITH, JOE	GS	3110
307	HILL, GRANT	DET	3010
308	WEATHERSPOON, CLAR	PHI	3000
309	ROBINSON, GLENN	MLW	2890
310	GUGLIOTTA, TOM	MIN	2880
311	PRICE, MARK	NY	2650
312	CAMPBELL, ELDON	LAK	2570
313	LAETTNER, CHRISTIAN	ATL	2520
314	GRANT, HORACE	ORL	2500
315	HORRY, ROBERT	PHO	2480
316	ELLIOTT, SEAN	SA	2430
317	SCHREMPF, DETLEF	SEA	2410
318	GILLIAM, ARMON	MIL	2370
319	GARNETT, KEVIN	MIN	2350
320	DAY, TODD	BOS	2310
321	DAVIS, DALE	IND	2280
322	MCCLOUD, GEORGE	DAL	2260
323	COLEMAN, DERRICK	PHI	2260
324	KUKOC, TONI	CHI	2240
325	CEBALLOS, CEDRIC	LAK	2210
326	VAUGHT, LOY	LAC	2210
327	GRANT, BRIAN	SAC	2200
328	GREEN, A.C.	PHO	2180
329	MCDYESS, ANTONIO	DEN	2170
330	MILLS, TERRY	DET	2170
331	WILLIS, KEVIN	HOU	2160
332	HOWARD, JUWAN	WAS	2150
333	WEBBER, CHRIS	WAS	2140

Forwards (cont)

ID	Player	Team	Sal
334	LONG, GRANT	DET	2130
335	WILLIAMS, JOHN	PHO	2120
336	MASHBURN, JAMAL	DAL	2100
337	RADJA, DINO	BOS	2090
338	WILLIAMS, WALT	MIA	2090
339	BROWN, P.J.	MIA	2070
340	MILLS, CHRIS	CLE	2070
341	POLYNICE, OLDEN	SAC	2050
342	PERSON, CHUCK	SA	2010
343	THORPE, OTIS	DET	1990
344	MCKEY, DERRICK	IND	1960
345	RODMAN, DENNIS	CHI	1920
346	OWENS, BILLY	SAC	1920
347	MORRIS, CHRIS	UTA	1830
348	FOX, RICK	BOS	1810
349	MASON, ANTHONY	CHA	1800
350	WILLIAMS, BUCK	NY	1770
351	JONES, POPEYE	TOR	1750
352	MURRAY, LAMOND	LAC	1710
353	OAKLEY, CHARLES	NY	1690
354	MULLIN, CHRIS	GS	1640
355	CHEANEY, CALBERT	WAS	1640
356	CAGE, MICHAEL	CLE	1620
357	ROGERS, RODNEY	LAC	1590
358	MARSHALL, DONYELL	GS	1570
359	NORMAN, KEN	ATL	1540
360	WRIGHT, SHARONE	TOR	1530
361	MANNING, DANNY	PHO	1480
362	GRANT, HARVEY	WAS	1460
363	FERRY, DANNY	CLE	1440
364	WILLIAMS, LORENZO	WAS	1420
365	HILL, TYRONE	CLE	1390
366	DAVIS, ANTONIO	IND	1390
367	BENOIT, DAVID	NJ	1380
368	MURRAY, TRACY	WAS	1370
369	GATLING, CHRIS	DAL	1360
370	NEWMAN, JOHNNY	MLW	1340
371	WILLIAMS, JAYSON	NJ	1280
372	SMITH, MICHAEL	SAC	1270
373	RATLIFF, THEO	DET	1270
374	SIMMONS, LIONEL	SAC	1270
375	TISDALE, WAYMAN	PHO	1260
376	KERSEY, JEROME	LAK	1240
377	OUTLAW, CHARLES	LAC	1240
378	MASSENBURG, TONY	PHI	1230
379	MACLEAN, DON	PHI	1210
380	ELLIS, LAPHONSO	DEN	1140
381	THOMAS, KURT	MIA	1120
382	JOHNSON, EDDIE	IND	1120
383	CORBIN, TYRONE	MIA	1120
384	SALLEY, JOHN	CHI	1120
385	HENDERSON, ALAN	ATL	1110
386	JOHNSON, EARVIN(MAGIC)	LAK	1110
387	PINCKNEY, ED	PHI	1110
388	WILLIAMS, ERIC	BOS	1080
389	BURRELL, SCOTT	CHA	1080
390	SEALY, MALIK	LAC	1080
391	CUMMINGS, TERRY	MLW	1010
392	LYNCH, GEORGE	VAN	990
393	CHILCUTT, PETE	VAN	980
394	KEEFE, ADAM	UTA	960
395	ROYAL, DONALD	ORL	960
396	MITCHELL, SAM	MIN	950
397	ALSTON, DERRICK	PHI	950
398	PIATKOWSKI, ERIC	LAC	930
399	REID, J.R.	NY	920
400	AVENT, ANTHONY	VAN	870
401	PERRY, TIM	NJ	860
402	ASKINS, KEITH	MIA	850
403	STRONG, DEREK	LAK	840
404	CARR, ANTOINE	UTA	820
405	MACK, SAM	HOU	810
406	ROZIER, CLIFFORD	GS	810
407	CHRISTIE, DOUG	TOR	810
408	EACKLES, LEDELL	WAS	790
409	O'BANNON, ED	NJ	760
410	MEYER, LOREN	DAL	750
411	ANDERSON, GREG	SA	750
412	BRYANT, MARK	PHO	750
413	TRENT, GARY	POR	710
414	WOOD, DAVID	DAL	700
415	AMAYA, ASHRAF	VAN	690
416	WILLIAMS, SCOTT	PHI	660
417	REID, DON	DET	640
418	SMITH, DOUG	NA	630

Forwards (cont)

ID	Player	Team	Sal
419	BROWN, CHUCKY	PHO	620
420	BLOUNT, CORIE	LAK	610
421	HAMMONDS, TOM	DEN	610
422	GATTISON, KENNY	UTA	600
423	HERRERA, CARL	SA	600
424	RUSSELL, BYRON	UTA	600
425	BONNER, ANTHONY	ORL	560
426	KING, CHRIS	VAN	500

Centers

ID	Player	Team	Sal
501	ROBINSON, DAVID	SA	5000
502	OLAJUWON, HAKEEM	HOU	4650
503	O'NEAL, SHAQUILLE	LAK	4350
504	MUTOMBO, DIKEMBE	ATL	3910
505	EWING, PATRICK	NY	3760
506	MOURNING, ALONZO	MIA	3420
507	DIVAC, VLADE	CHA	3080
508	BAKER, VIN	MLW	2990
509	BRADLEY, SHAWN	NJ	2530
510	PERKINS, SAM	SEA	2470
511	SABONIS, ARVYDAS	POR	2360
512	MILLER, OLIVER	TOR	2130
513	SMITS, RIK	IND	1960
514	REEVES, BRYANT	VAN	1840
515	MURESAN, GHEORGHE	WAS	1750
516	LANG, ANDREW	MLW	1700
517	SEIKALY, RONY	GS	1610
518	BENJAMIN, BENOIT	MLW	1530
519	WILLIAMS, BRIAN	LAC	1390
520	SMITH, CHARLES	SA	1340
521	DUDLEY, CHRIS	POR	1300
522	GEIGER, MATT	CHA	1290
523	WALLACE, RASHEED	POR	1270
524	PARISH, ROBERT	CHA	1260
525	ROOKS, SEAN	LAK	1240
526	MONTROSS, ERIC	DAL	1150
527	LONGLEY, LUC	CHI	1120
528	ELLISON, PERVIS	BOS	1040
529	SPENCER, FELTON	ORL	1040
530	BRICKOWSKI, FRANK	BOS	1020
531	PERDUE, WILL	SA	1000
532	WEST, MARK	CLE	940
533	KONCAK, JON	ORL	930
534	ROGERS, CARLOS	TOR	920
535	MCILVAINE, JIM	SEA	910
536	JOHNSON, ERVIN	DEN	890
537	LOHAUS, BRAD	CHA	770
538	CAUSWELL, DUANE	SAC	760
539	CONLON, MARTY	MLW	760
540	PARKS, CHEROKEE	MIN	710
541	OSTERTAG, GREG	UTA	680
542	WENNINGTON, BILL	CHI	670
543	LISTER, ALTON	BOS	600
544	SPENCER, ELMORE	POR	600
545	EARL, ACIE	TOR	540
546	WILLIAMS, HERB	NY	500
547	DUCKWORTH, KEVIN	MLW	500
548	ROBERTS, STANLEY	LAC	500
549	KING, STACEY	MIA	500
550	MOBLEY, ERIC	VAN	500
551	KLEINE, JOE	PHO	500
552	LECKNER, ERIC	DET	500
553	FOSTER, GREG	UTA	500
554	SCHAYES, DANNY	MIA	500
555	ZIDEK, GEORGE	CHA	500
556	ELLIS, LERON	MIA	500
557	RILEY, ERIC	MIN	500
558	HODGE, DONALD	CHA	500
559	THOMPSON, LASALLE	PHI	500
560	SCHINTZIUS, DWAYNE	IND	500
561	DARE, YINKA	NJ	500

Sporting News Basketball team owners shared $203,982 in Cash Prizes last year!

Draft Picks

ID	Pos	Player	Team	Sal
233	G	ALLEN IVERSON	PHL	1500
234	G	STEPHON MARBURY	MIN	1350
235	G	RAY ALLEN	MIL	1200
236	G	KERRY KITTLES	NJ	1200
237	G	KOBE BRYANT	LAK	1100
238	G	STEVE NASH	PHO	1100
239	G	TONY DELK	CHA	1100
240	G	EFTHIMIS RETZIAS	DEN	1000
241	G	DEREK FISHER	LA	1000
242	G	MOOCHIE NORRIS	MIL	900
243	G	SHAWN HARVEY	DAL	900
244	G	DORON SHEFFER	LAC	900
245	G	JEFF MCINNIS	DEN	800
246	G	RANDY LIVINGSTON	HOU	700
247	G	MARCUS BROWN	POR	600
248	G	JEFF NORDGAARD	MIL	600
249	G	RONNIE HENDERSON	WAS	500
250	G	REGGIE GEARY	CLE	500
251	G	DREW BARRY	SEA	500
427	F	MARCUS CAMBY	TOR	1500
428	F	SHAREEF ABDUR-RAHIM	VAN	1450
429	F	ANTOINE WALKER	BOS	1200
430	F	LORENZEN WRIGHT	LAC	1200
431	F	PREDRAG STOJAKOVIC	SAC	1100
432	F	JERMAINE O'NEAL	POR	1100
433	F	JOHN WALLACE	NY	1000
434	F	WALTER MCCARTY	NY	1000
435	F	ZYDRUNAS ILGUASKAS	CLE	1000
436	F	DONTAE JONES	NY	1000
437	F	ROY ROGERS	VAN	1000
438	F	MARTIN MUURESEPP	MIA	1000
439	F	JEROME WILLIAMS	DET	1000
440	F	BRIAN EVANS	ORL	1000
441	F	MARK HENDRICKSON	PHI	900
442	F	RYAN MINOR	PHI	900
443	F	JOSEPH BLAIR	SEA	900
444	F	RUSS MILLARD	PHO	800
445	F	MARCUS MANN	GS	800
446	F	JASON SASSER	POR	700
447	F	BEN DAVIS	PHO	700
448	F	MALIK ROSE	CHA	700
449	F	JOE VOGEL	SEA	600
450	F	RON RILEY	DET	600
451	F	AMAL MCCASKILL	ORL	600
452	F	CHRIS ROBINSON	VAN	600
453	F	MARK POPE	IND	600
454	F	SHANDON ANDERSON	DEN	500
562	C	SAMAKI WALKER	DAL	1200
563	C	ERICK DAMPIER	IND	1100
564	C	TODD FULLER	GS	1100
565	C	VITALY POTAPENKO	CLE	1100
566	C	PRIEST LAUDERDALE	ATL	1000
567	C	TRAVIS KNIGHT	LAK	1000
568	C	OTHELLA HARRINGTON	HOU	900
569	C	STEVE HAMER	BOS	800
570	C	JAMIE FEICK	PHI	600
571	C	TERRELL BELL	HOU	600
572	C	DARNELL ROBINSON	DAL	500

Team designation based on team as of Aug. 19, 1996

Enter your team 9 AM to 9 PM Mon. thru Sat. by calling 1-800-568-6288 or by fax 314-991-1564 anytime.

All salaries are in 000's. Salaries & positions do not change! Unlisted players are $500,000 & must be placed on taxi squad until Sunday, Nov. 10, 1996.

Entries must be phoned or faxed by Thursday, Oct. 31, 9pm 1-800-568-6288

Complete the entry form and enter your team with check or money order by mailing to:

CDM, Inc.
11756 Borman Dr.
Suite 220
St. Louis, MO
63146-4133

Mailed entries must be postmarked by October 31, 1996 and received by November 5, 1996.

MasterCard VISA

TSN-C

I. Team Owner Information

Name _____

Team Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

Phone ( )

MC/VISA _____ Exp ____

$89 Challenge Entry ($79 by Oct. 12th) $ ____

Additional Entries Qty ___ x $69 = ____

Additional Address Qty ___ x $10 = ____

Weekly Reports (per address) ___ x $10 = ____

TOTAL PAYMENT ____

Have you played a TSN Challenge before? ____

II. Starting Team

Pos	Id	Name	Salary
G			
G			
G			
G			
G			
F			
F			
F			
F			
F			
C			
C			
C			

Total Team Salary

$_____ (cannot exceed $30,000,000)

III. Taxi Squad

	Id	Name	Salary
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			

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red storm RISING

New Yorker Fran Fraschilla, coming off big success at Manhattan, seems to be just the right man to put storied-but-struggling St. John's back on cloud nine

By Ian O'Connor

They always go back to that first team meeting, the coaches who have beaten the longest odds. The new man orders the kids to sit up straight, they listen, they go to the Final Four. Fran Fraschilla will not buck the cliche, because it offers the perfect scene. Sometime next century, when cub reporters are pressing him on how it all started, Fraschilla can describe the way his first St. John's team walked through the door.

One player wearing a beeper.

One carrying a bagged lunch.

Two wearing caps turned sideways.

Three showing up late.

Fraschilla walked off the back pages of the New York tabloids and into a sea of despair. Endorsed by every newspaper columnist and high school coach in town, Fraschilla was charged in the spring with returning St. John's basketball to the national forum. He is local and charismatic, held as a pitchman with integrity. Because he talks fast, wins plenty and brags on an Italian-American stock, Fraschilla arrives with labels: the next Pitino, the next Calipari.

Like Kentucky and Massachusetts in the 1980s, St. John's is broken in the 1990s. Fraschilla was given four years and about $2 million to fix it. He started with a predictable conversation in a predictable meeting. The players spoke the body language of defeat. The coach began teaching them a fresh dialect.

"I told them, 'We don't have beepers in my meetings, we don't eat lunch in my meetings and we don't show up two minutes late to my meetings,' " Fraschilla says. "I said, 'We're going to win here. It may take a little time, but we're going to win. And win big.' "

St. John's has a tradition of winning big, too big to allow Brian Mahoney to survive on good intentions. Mahoney was handpicked by his boss, Lou Carnesecca, who was handpicked by his boss, Joe Lapchick. Lapchick and Carnesecca were nice guys who ensured their teams advanced to postseason tournaments. Mahoney, who took over in 1992-93, was a warm touch in a cold business, but his seasons were just too short. His once-in-a-lifetime recruit, Felipe Lopez, was looking like a four-year player, only because the NBA suddenly lost interest. And his teams won only 56 games while losing 58.

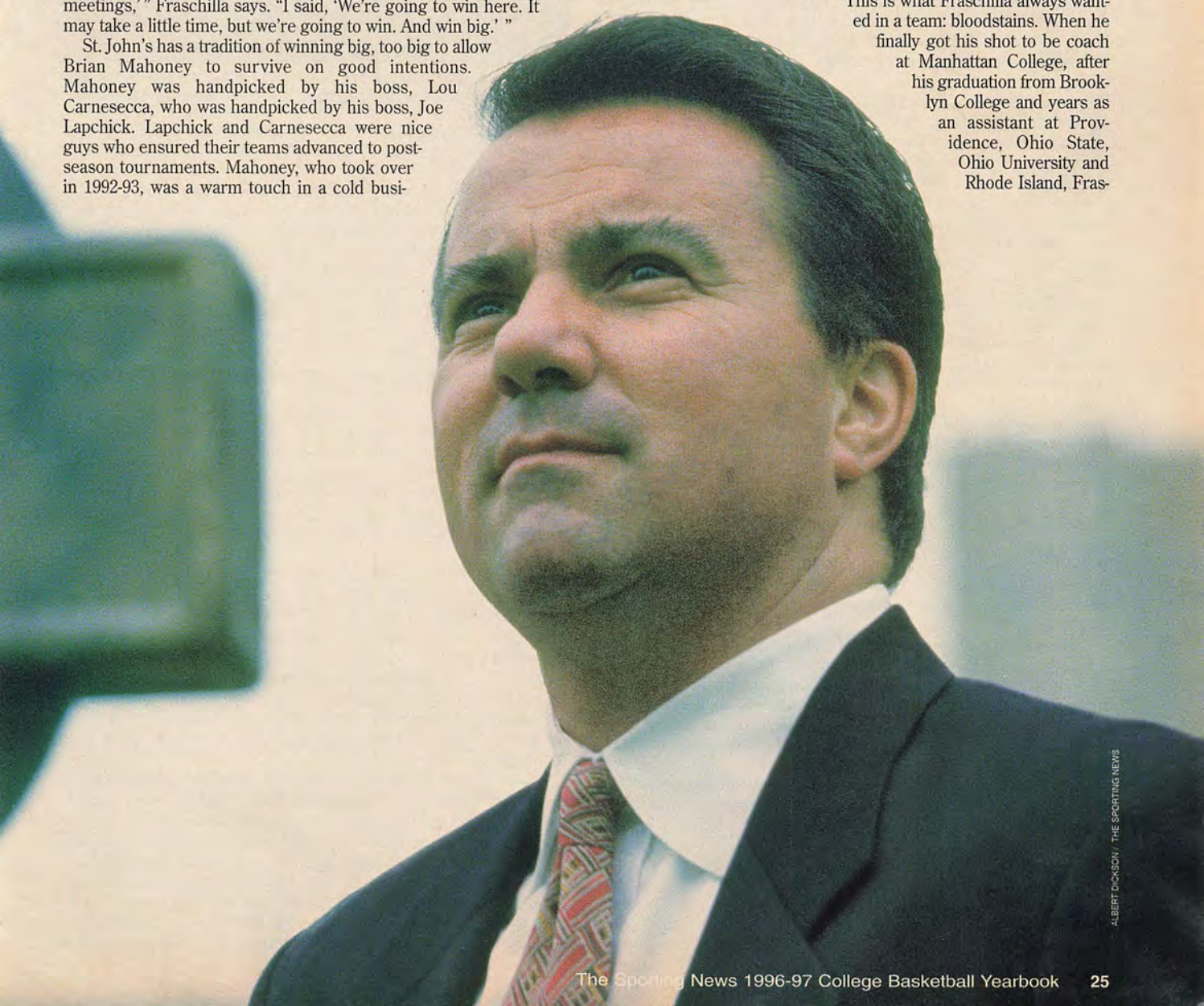
So a chorus of fans and columnists—not to mention an anonymous player or two—chanted for Mahoney's job. A mere four years after Carnesecca retired on his own terms, St. John's chose to break from a second tradition: It went outside the family. Considering Fraschilla's track record, the Red Storm program's recent slippage and the fact that no one on the St. John's staff was deemed really ready for the job, it was one tradition worth sacrificing.

As a teenager, Fran Fraschilla had this strange hobby. While his friends were writing letters to pretty girls, he was writing letters to famous coaches. Only a few would write back. Lou Carnesecca was one of them.

Fraschilla wanted to be a ballboy, to observe practice, to study the craft. Long before his classmates had any idea where they wanted to take their lives, Fraschilla knew he was going to be a basketball coach. Carnesecca invited him to St. John's. The kid made the journey from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, to Jamaica, Queens—three train changes and a bus. Fraschilla knew he couldn't negotiate that trip every day. He quit before he was hired. A quarter century later, St. John's gave him a second chance.

The dirty uniform, the scraped knees—these were Fraschilla's badges of honor as a ballplayer at Brooklyn's Madison High. He was the point guard diving for loose balls. He was the shortstop sacrificing his body on the pivot.

This is what Fraschilla always wanted in a team: bloodstains. When he finally got his shot to be coach at Manhattan College, after his graduation from Brooklyn College and years as an assistant at Providence, Ohio State, Ohio University and Rhode Island, Fras-



ALBERT DICKSON/ THE SPORTING NEWS

chilla molded the program in his image. He could recruit only mid-major prospects, the leftover talents, but grabbed the ones willing to defend, rebound, sweat. Manhattan made it to the NCAA Tournament twice in four years under Fraschilla, beating Oklahoma in '95 after receiving an at-large bid despite being from the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

St. John's, meanwhile, was losing its way under Mahoney. The Red Storm had big-name recruits in Lopez, Zendon Hamilton, James Scott and Tarik Turner, but little else. The team didn't guard people. Didn't pass much. Didn't shoot straight. Near the end of last season, a year in which St. John's lost 11 of its final 15 games, it became painfully clear the team needed to grow a heart.

Ed Manetta, the new athletic director, took stabs at Rick Majerus and John Calipari. Majerus told St. John's he wouldn't leave Utah; Calipari told St. John's to hire Fraschilla. Manetta gave serious thought to Florida State's Pat Kennedy and Bradley's Jim Molinari. Molinari didn't have Fraschilla's local connections, and Kennedy didn't have Fraschilla's local support.

In the end, Fraschilla was judged best qualified to lead St. John's on its quest to rediscover a work ethic.

"Before we talk about wins and losses and the Top 25, we've got to create a blue-collar mentality here," he says. "When people watch us play, I want them to say, 'Man, they play hard. Man, they guard people. Man, they're unselfish.' It's a matter of changing our players' thought process and a matter of recruiting.

"At Manhattan, we recruited a certain kind of player. We want to recruit the same player here. We'll have the superstar every now and then, but we also want to recruit the traditional St. John's player—Mel Davis, Billy Singleton, Bill Wennington, Frankie Alagia, all those workmanlike guys. Then throw in a Chris Mullin, a Walter Berry, a Zendon Hamilton. If we can do that, there's no question it will translate into an excellent program."

It is mentioned to Fraschilla that he didn't include Lopez in his chronology of St. John's greats. The coach quickly recovers, saying he considers Hamilton and Lopez in the same class. But this isn't a spin worth contesting. Fraschilla has a firm grasp of the obvious, even if he's not going to show it in public.

When Lopez announced his intention to sign with St. John's out of Brother Rice High School, the *New York Daily News* deemed the event worthy of five full pages. He was a 6-5 swingman, thought to be far and away the best prep player in the country, the latest in a procession of special New York guards. When he was compared to a young Michael Jordan, nobody laughed. St. John's, coming off a 12-17 season in 1993-94, positively had to have him.

Mahoney thought he might be fired if he didn't sign Lopez. As it turned out, he might have been fired because he *did* sign Lopez (the team proceeded to stumble to a 25-30 record the past two years).

Fraschilla talks about having a plan to save St. John's, about weaving the thread of discipline through the program (he booted two starters from his Manhattan team last season for rules violations) and about building his players' self-esteem. No matter what he says, the plan starts with his most gifted player. Lopez averaged 17.8 points as a freshman and 16.2 as a sophomore, sound numbers in the Big East. But he operated on a level clearly below the league's elite players, from Allen Iverson to Kerry Kittles to John Wallace to Ray Allen. Last season, Lopez shot 40.6 percent from the field, 26 percent from 3-point range and 68.3 percent from the free-throw line. He had more turnovers (85) than assists and steals combined (80).

"I've coached eight or nine guys who played in the NBA, so I've got a sense he's good enough to play at that level," Fraschilla says. "Whether he's the fifth pick in the draft or goes early in the second round, that's up to him. I won't know how talented he is until we get him out there, but I think the way he plays will determine how we play.

"I know in him we've got a guy who is good in the open floor, good going to the basket and someone who can make open shots. We have to create a situation where he's not taking acrobatic shots all the time. If there's greatness there, it will surface. But I'm not a magician. I will coach him and give him the opportunity to be the best player he can be. When he leaves the university, I want him to thank me for working him hard. Maybe he's a guy destined to be a very good college player, nothing more."

Lopez flatly dismisses such a possibility. Although he refuses to criticize Mahoney for the record, Lopez, according to several people close to him, believes his failure to blossom into a superstar is tied

MITCHELL LAYTON

The animated Carnesecca passed the St. John's coaching torch to his longtime aide, Mahoney (left). Now the job has gone outside the university's tight family.

to Mahoney's system and style. The player wanted the coach to employ a running offense. The coach wanted the player to work harder in practice.

Fraschilla was a candidate Lopez endorsed. Now there are no more excuses. Fraschilla is going to deploy a running offense. Either Felipe is a work in progress, or a wing in decline. Regardless, one truth goes unchallenged: This time around, Lopez needs the coach more than the coach needs Lopez.

"I want more from myself, and Coach Fraschilla is the kind of person who can bring more out of you," Lopez says. "As a human being, you tend to slack off. You always need someone like Coach to keep you on your toes. I know I have a lot to improve on, like the pull-up shot, my outside game, being more consistent. But people also tend to forget the kind of player you are.

"I feel bad about what happened (with Mahoney), but some things were misunderstood there. It's time to move on. We've been down for two years and we're trying to stay positive. Coach Fraschilla has already made some great changes, on and off the court. I still think we can be like Syracuse last year, when they came out of nowhere. Coach said when he got to St. John's that he wants us in the Final Four. That's where I want to be before I leave."

If Lopez amounts to a first trial, Fraschilla ultimately will be judged on his ability to recruit. Above all else, Fraschilla was hired because of his relationship with the city's premier high school coaches and summer-league power brokers. He is known as a tireless seller, a door-to-door type. He landed Jimmy Jackson for Ohio State. If he had a major-college job at the time, he believes he would have secured Stephon Marbury's signature, too.

Fraschilla will mine Washington, D.C., Florida and the Carolinas for players. But he promises to stock the St. John's roster with home-grown talent.

"What helped me at Manhattan was recruiting players out of great high school programs, guys used to winning, working hard, not minding every now and then having a coach breathe down their backs," Fraschilla says. "We'll go outside the region, but I want this program built from within—the Catholic League, the Public League, Long Island, northern Jersey, Westchester. There are enough players here to have a full team from New York and New Jersey."

St. John's is expected to build an on-campus arena to replace its Jurassic gym, Alumni Hall, and always will have Madison Square

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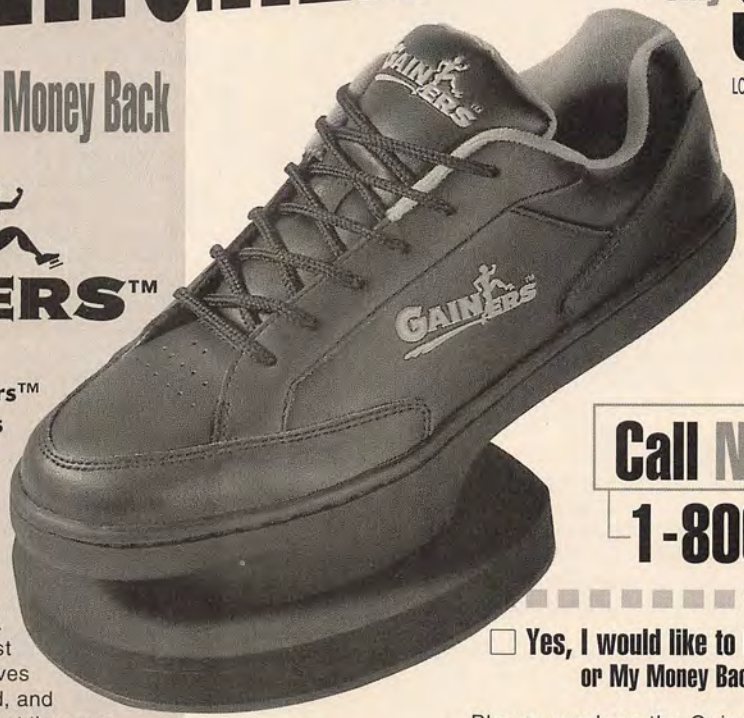

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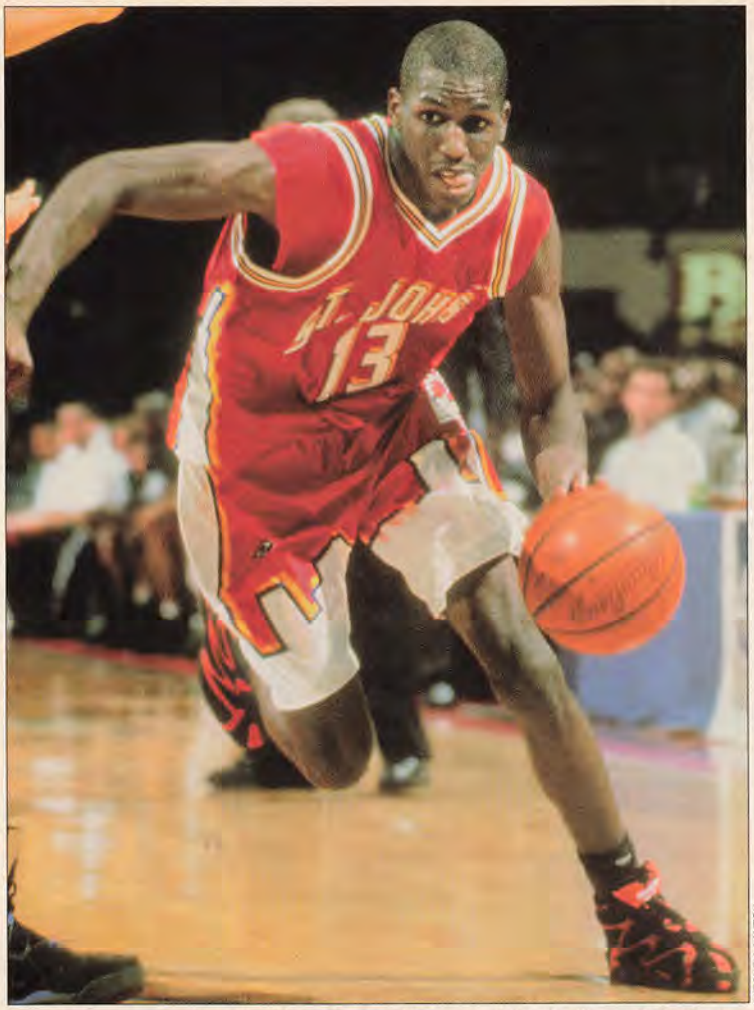

MITCHELL LAYTON

Fraschilla's plan to revitalize the Storm begins with re-energizing the disappointing Lopez.

Garden as a stage for its biggest games. But the school is burdened by recruiting liabilities that won't disappear. For one, there is no dorm life. For another, there is no green grass. St. John's is a commuter school, a cramped stretch of pavement in the middle of Queens that never has made for much of a postcard. Paired against the Kentucky bluegrass, against the fresh Carolina air, it's a tough sell. Exactly why a fireplug like Fraschilla, like old man Carnesecca, is the school's only hope.

"In all my years in basketball," says Gary DeCesare, coach of Bronx prep power St. Raymond's, "I've seen three guys with such an incredible amount of enthusiasm in recruiting—Rick Pitino, John Calipari and Fran Fraschilla. Fran never stops working. As soon as he got the St. John's job, he went after Tim Thomas and Shaheen Holloway even though he knew he was coming in too late on both. (New Jersey prep stars Thomas and Holloway are headed for Villanova and Seton Hall, respectively.)

"I've had seven big-time Division I kids in my program, and St. John's hasn't recruited any of them. I don't know why. But I do know that Fran is going to go after them. He knows that just having a top-10 kid list you among his final choices of schools is good publicity for your program. With the way Fran works and the charisma he has, I think St. John's will be in the Final Four within four years."

Fraschilla refuses to fall into the timetable trap, saying that St. John's will return to national prominence but refusing to say when. He wants to talk about crawling, not walking. During the spring, he demanded his players rise at 6:15 every morning to lift weights. Among their many flaws, the Red Storm players were a sorry-looking lot. At Manhattan, Fraschilla had 11 players who could bench-press 250 pounds; at St. John's, he found two.

The boot camp didn't just cover the body, but also the mind. Fraschilla mandated that every St. John's player attend every class, with oversleepers charged to rise at 5:30 the following morning.

"We ended up with a 2.8 grade-point average as a team, primarily because we had nearly perfect attendance," Fraschilla says. "You want that to carry over to the court. When I'm a maniac on the sideline, when they're about to crack and finally don't because they realize Coach is going to make us do this over—that's the discipline I want. Not missing classes because you don't like getting up so early carries over to the court, which carries over to the real world. To me, it makes perfect sense."

Sensible indeed, yet Fraschilla understands graduation rates alone hardly grant a coach secure employment. He is going to get fired if he doesn't win. Mahoney was nearly everything St. John's wants in a coach—loyal, genuine, caring. He just wasn't good enough in the won-lost column.

Fraschilla was 85-35 at Manhattan, giving the Jaspers their first trips to the NCAA Tournament since 1958. Truth be told, Steve Lappas, his predecessor, did much of the heavy lifting before bolting for Villanova. Fraschilla will build upon no such foundation this time. St. John's, No. 4 among Division I teams in all-time victories, is coming off an 11-16 season. Not in 33 years has a St. John's coach inherited a team that won fewer games.

"I don't think a lot of people realize how daunting this proposition is, but I still envision us playing Georgetown in a sold-out Garden for the Big East championship," Fraschilla says. "I want to recapture that vision of making a Garden ticket a tough ticket (attendance has dropped off markedly in recent years), of positive back pages, of our kids being in the media spotlight and having people say they're fun to watch, that they play so hard.

"What I really want is for New Yorkers to fall in love with St. John's again. I want people to look at St. John's basketball the way people look at Notre Dame football. I want New Yorkers to feel that St. John's is *our* team."

Funny thing is, Fraschilla never thought St. John's would be *his* team. Growing up in Brooklyn, shooting baskets by himself in Kelly Park, the notion was entirely far-fetched. Looie Carnesecca, everyone knew, was going to be there forever.

"It didn't hit me until the last month or two before I was hired, when I thought there might be a coaching change," Fraschilla says. "I asked myself, 'Do I want to stay home? Do I want to be in the fishbowl?' When it happened, I was excited. But, really, my emotion was that I wanted to go to work. On my first day it was like, 'OK, where's my office?' "

Fraschilla saw the move from Manhattan to St. John's as more of a job transfer than a job change. He still lives in White Plains, still heads south on the Hutchinson River Parkway en route to work, still has his same AAU contacts.

But there are solitary moments stuck in traffic, on the pillow at night, when the thought races through his head: *This is what I've always wanted to do with my life.* Fraschilla doesn't make time for such sentiment. Sometimes, it finds him anyway. Like when he is looking at old St. John's films and there is Looie on the sideline, the coach who was never supposed to leave, and maybe never did.

"Seeing Looie and then thinking of how I am on the sideline—it's scary how much we're alike," Fraschilla says. "We have different styles of coaching, but the way we take our coats off early, how we're so active on the sideline, it's like we're both coaching as if we're playing."

Fraschilla doesn't want to be Carnesecca or Pitino or Calipari, although he has been close with the new Nets coach since the two roomed together at North Carolina's basketball camp 18 years ago. As long as he reintroduces St. John's to the heat of March, Fraschilla won't have to worry about the comparisons.

"What we want to see happen in the future," Manetta says, "is people saying other coaches are the next Fran Fraschillas."

If they ever make such statements, Fraschilla can talk about his first team meeting at St. John's, the time his kids walked in with beepers, potato chips, crooked hats and broken spirits.

"We have good kids here," he says. "But they need my direction."

Perhaps the Red Storm will sit straight, grow up, make the Final Four. The odds are as long as the St. John's tradition. Straight out of the Sheepshead Bay playgrounds, fresh off the back pages of the New York tabloids, Fran Fraschilla has been given four years to beat them. ◆

Ian O'Connor is a columnist for the New York Daily News.

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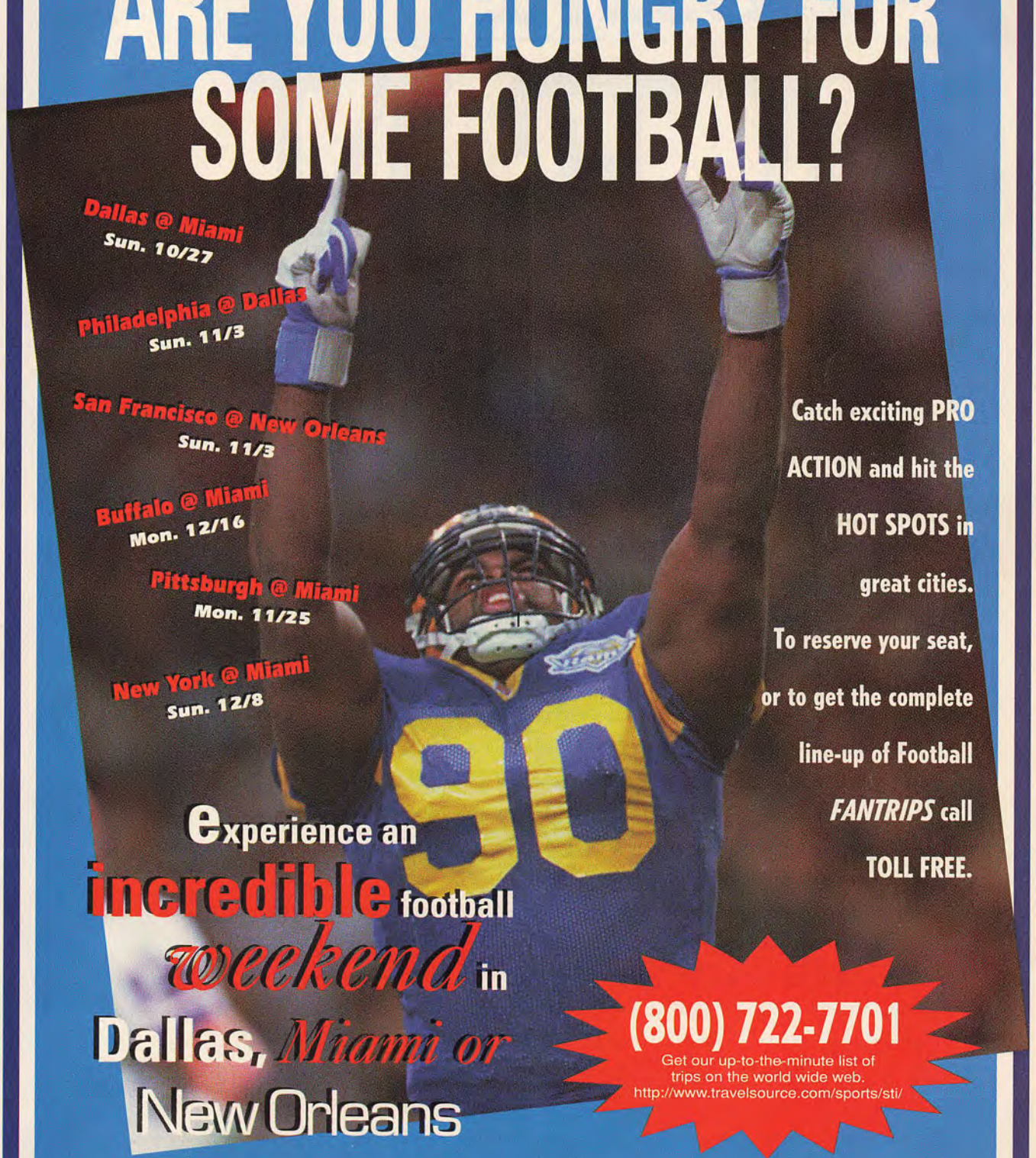

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the POINT MEN

Sophomore guards providing direction as position takes on greater meaning

By Michael Bradley

With all the hand-wringing and melodramatic lamenting that accompanied last year's record exodus of underclassmen to the NBA, one would think there are no talented players left in college. Some made it sound as if schools such as North Carolina would be holding open tryouts or combing the fraternity leagues for prospects.

Relax, doomsayers. Just as anyone in this country 16 or older is free to get a job, so, too, will college basketball replenish its stockpile of talent. You may not know all the players who will emerge this season, but that doesn't mean they aren't good.

One position in particular, point guard, is loaded with gifted sophomores waiting to impress. That's good news, not only because of the perceived need to find new stars but also because point guard is becoming the most important position on the floor.

The 35-second shot clock, the inviting 3-point line and the elimination of the five-second closely guarded turnover have allowed slick point men to rule like never before. They handle it. They pass it. They shoot it. They run the show. Teams with sound point guards can establish tempo and get out of trouble when the shot clock is deep into single digits.

"You clearly have to have good guards in today's game," Boston College coach Jim O'Brien says. "In our conference (the Big East), there are no secrets, and everybody's defense takes the other guys out of their offense. You can't just bring your team up the floor and run a set play because the other team is waiting for it. When that happens, you have to have somebody who can, with the clock running down, take the ball and help you win the game. The better teams have guys who can do that."

The following six sophomores—Arkansas' Kareem Reid, Colorado's Chauncey Billups, Connecticut's Ricky Moore, Kentucky's Wayne Turner, Boston College's Scoonie Penn and Providence's God Shammgod—will be among those making their teams better this season.

RUDY WINSTON FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

TIM JACKSON

New Yorker Reid (left) isn't exactly a Bronx bomber—his outside shooting has been deficient—but his flash and flair have energized Arkansas' backcourt. Billups could serve as a model for a recruiting poster at Colorado, although the Buffaloes still have a considerable distance to go in their quest to attract top-notch basketball talent to Boulder.

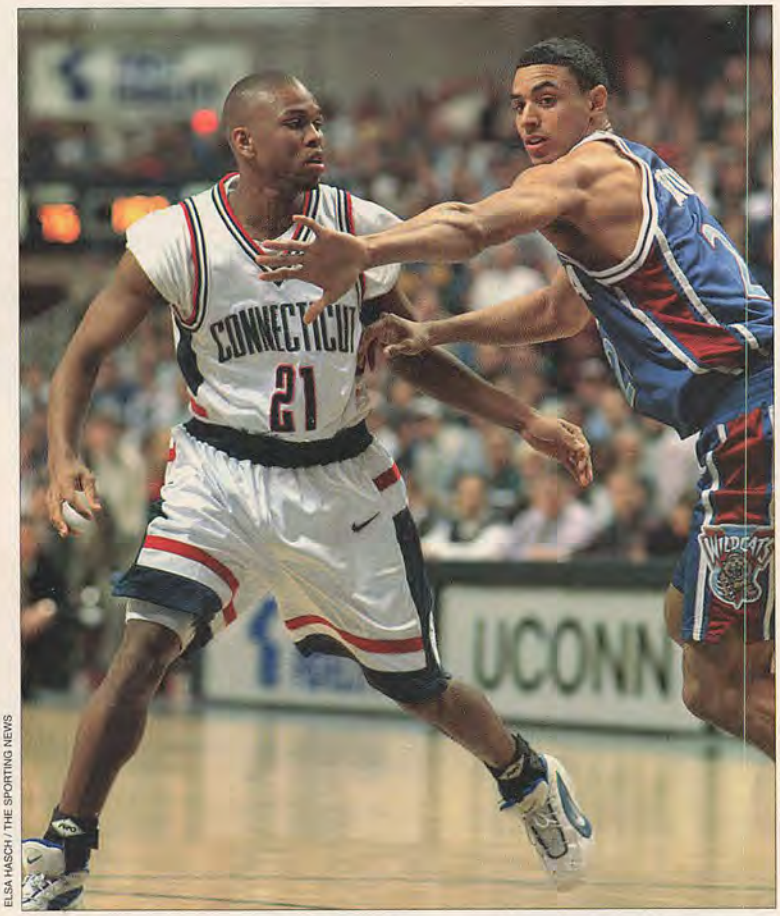
THE CITY MOUSE GOES COUNTRY

You can't blame Kareem Reid for thinking all those friendly people he met during his recruiting visit to Arkansas were faking it. Back home in the Bronx, nobody made eye contact, much less cared how you were doing. When a stranger said "Hello" to him on the street in the Bronx, Reid wondered if the person was crazy.

But there was Reid, during his first visit home to the Bronx after enrolling at Arkansas, hopping out of a car with his buddies and leaving his door unlocked. They can do that in Fayetteville, Ark. Do it in the Bronx, and you might as well spray paint "Steal Me" on the windshield.

"My friends asked, 'Why aren't you locking your door?' " Reid says. "They couldn't believe it. But that's how they do it down in Arkansas. People are really nice."

They have been even nicer than usual to Reid, the 5-10 dynamo who ran the Arkansas offense last year and set a school record with 219 assists while committing 124 turnovers. Sales of his jersey are brisk among young Razorbacks fans who identify with a player they can post up. Their parents love Reid for his quickness and ability to score inside over bigger men. And Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson is thrilled to see how well Reid recovered from the NCAA's last-minute declaration that he was ineligible to play for the Razorbacks in 1994-95.



ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

The Huskies' Moore deferred to his elders last season, but he no doubt will be looking for the ball more in 1996-97. Moore says the scope of his game will surprise a lot of UConn fans.

When Reid headed south in the fall of '94, he expected to get settled on campus for a month, then start practicing for the then-defending national champs. Reid had earned the required SAT score to play as a freshman, but the NCAA questioned the test result and forced Reid to retake the exam. By the time he passed it, in late '94, the season had started and Richardson decided he wanted the point guard for four full years, not three-and-a-half. Reid, who was enrolled part time at Arkansas and couldn't practice with the team, found the ordeal depressing. He hadn't moved 1,500 miles from St. Raymond's High in the Bronx to the country just for the lower cost of living.

"It was tough being down there without being able to play ball," Reid says. "Going to Arkansas, I was excited about playing for the team that had won the national championship. But when I got down there and found out I wasn't going to be able to play, it was like somebody shot me in the leg."

Reid was certainly up and around during the 1995-96 season. From the second game of the campaign, when he scored 20 against Arizona, it was clear Reid had a high-energy personality that would fit perfectly in Richardson's hyper-kinetic system. "We've never had anybody with the flash and flair he has," Richardson says.

But Reid wasn't perfect. He had to devote considerable attention to his defense, which had atrophied during years of having fly swatters like Adonal Foyle, Marcus Camby and Mark Blount behind him on his Riverside Church AAU team. "He was one of the worst defenders I had ever seen when he started," Richardson says. "He didn't care if a guy got by him." By year's end, Reid had improved enough to average two steals a game and even had three five-swipe outings.

Reid also worked hard on his shot, something that still needs attention. He shot only 39.5 percent from the field and a dismal 25.9 percent from 3-point range. That allowed rivals to lay off him and focus against Reid's overwhelming quickness. "His only weakness is his outside shot," Kentucky guard Wayne Turner says. "But to be as fast as he is and in as much control as he is and pass as well as he does, that's great." Reid also possesses an uncanny knack for scoring inside, thanks to an unorthodox reverse layup he slingshots over taller players after hanging in the air. "He's not a jumper; he's nothing like Michael Jordan," Richardson says. "But he can hang for long enough to get his shot off against some of the biggest guys around."

About the only blotch on this happy story is a late-spring arrest (along with teammate Marlon Towns and another UA student) for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana—a misdemeanor offense in Arkansas. Though the charges were dropped in August, Richardson is a strident opponent of drugs and had suspended Reid for the summer. "He will also miss some games," Richardson promised. The incident, which wouldn't have attracted attention had Reid not been a Razorbacks basketball player, taught him the responsibilities he has as a high-profile athlete.

"Kids who thought of me as a role model before are now probably being teased for wearing my jersey," Reid says. "I made a mistake. I'm not going to blame anybody else. I'm not going to make excuses. It hurt me to see my face in the paper next to that story. It hurt that my mom had to see that. It hurt me because of all the people behind me."

And all that's ahead of him.

THE MAGNET

Here's how it's supposed to work: Chauncey Billups, Denver high school All-American, stays home and plays for Colorado's floundering basketball team, then serves as a recruiting inducement for other standouts. One can almost hear coach Ricardo Patton's pitch. ...

"We have mountains. We have skiing. We have a nice arena. And have you met Chauncey?"

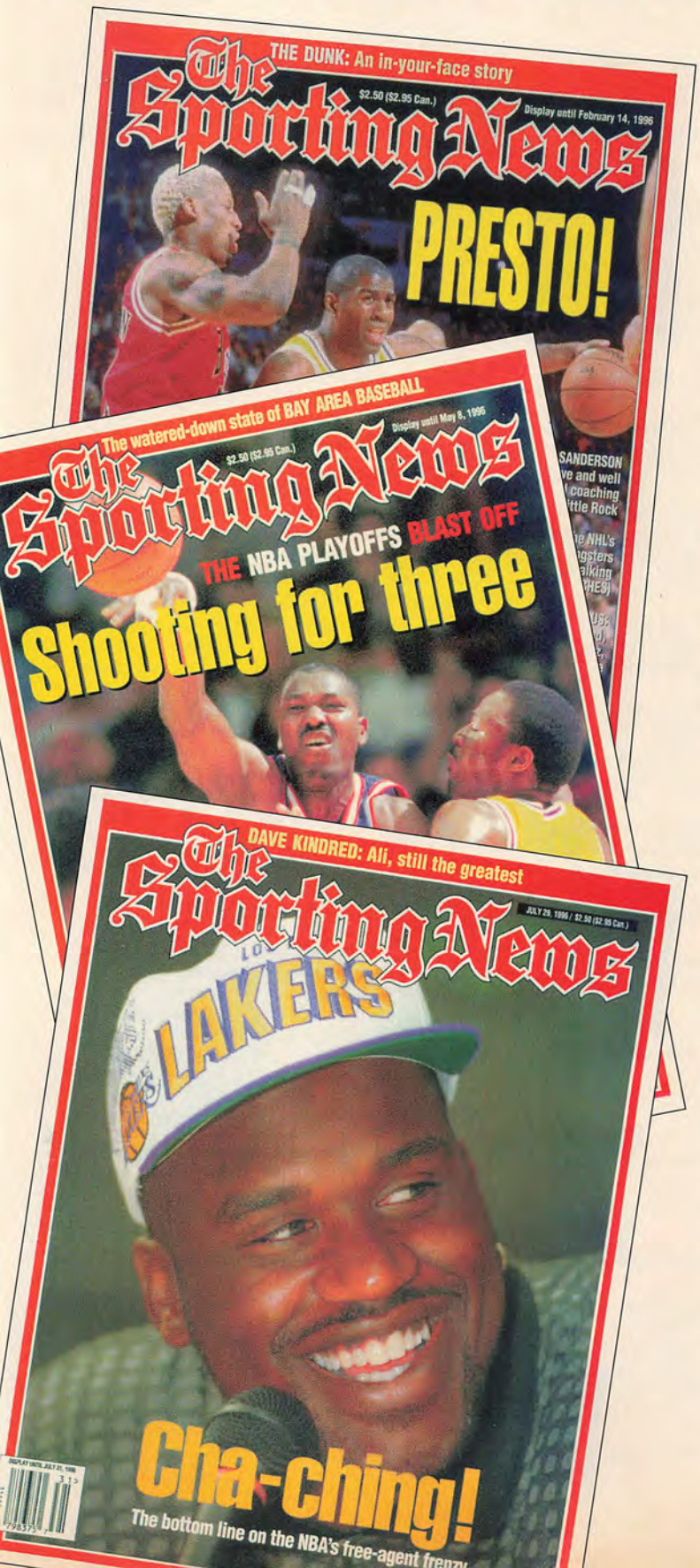
Eager recruits would sign up so fast the Buffaloes would be petitioning the NCAA for five or six extra scholarships to make up for a prolonged period without many real players. The Final Four would beckon. Strategies would be devised for how best to cut down nets.

Not yet, Colorado. Though the 6-3 Billups had the best Big Eight debut since former Oklahoma standout Wayman Tisdale in 1982-83 and was ranked among the top 10 in seven of the conference's eight main statistical categories (work on those blocked shots this year, big fella), the Buffaloes have yet to supplant North Carolina or Kentucky as the destination of choice for blue chippers. Yes, Colorado did have a solid recruiting year, adding backcourt depth and improving the team's athleticism. And Billups no doubt played a role. But Colorado needs another year or two of Billups' magic to make it as attractive to basketball prospects as it is to football stars.

"He gave our program credibility," says Patton, who took over when Joe Harrington resigned midway through last season. "He was the first high-profile player from Denver to choose to stay in state in a long while. Chauncey had enough confidence in us to see that we could turn the program around if we started attracting players like him."

Billups chose the school because of his close relationship with his family, although he didn't grow up following Colorado basketball. As a

HOW FANS BECOME EXPERTS



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THE NEW GUARD

BY ANTHONY GIMINO

The first thing you need to know about Mike Bibby doesn't concern the hands that throw the flashy behind-the-back passes, and it isn't about the quick feet that scoot him by defenders, and it has nothing to do with his eyes, which can spot an open teammate when no one else can.

What you need to know about the son of former NBA guard and current Southern California coach Henry Bibby can be found on his left leg, on the outside of his calf. A tattoo. A tattoo of a basketball—and an NBA logo.

Bibby, the elite point guard from last year's high school class, got the tattoo before his senior season at Shadow Mountain High School in Phoenix. By that time, he had known for years where he wanted to go and where everyone said he was headed. "If the opportunity is there for me to leave early, I'd probably take it and then come back and finish (a degree)," Bibby says. "The NBA has been my dream since I was little, and if it's there, I don't think I could pass it up."

Mike Bibby

First things first.

Bibby has yet to play a game for Arizona or even earn a starting spot. Still, how can he lose with an endorsement like this: "At this stage, yes, he's the best we've recruited," Arizona coach Lute Olson says.

Bibby, who is 6-2, has an all-around game. He averaged 34.3 points, 8.0 assists, 6.0 rebounds and 4.0 steals in leading his team to a state title last year. He scored 1,132 points, setting a state record for single-season scoring. And while he scored 3,002 points in his prep career—another state record—he prefers to pass. "I like the run-and-gun style and giving my teammates the ball," Bibby says. "I'd rather have them shoot and I can keep everybody involved."

While he is relatively quiet and unassuming during interviews, there is nothing shy about his game. During the McDonalds All-Star Game last March, Bibby started a three-on-one fast break. "Off the backboard," he yelled to teammate Corey Benjamin, a high-flying forward also running the break. Bibby drove to the basket, faked a layup and threw the ball off the glass to Benjamin, who dunked it.

"That's the thing about him," says Arizona assistant coach Jessie Evans, who was the school's primary recruiter of Bibby. "He makes the spectacular pass, but he can also penetrate and make the fundamental drop pass or the bounce pass. And yet everyone knows he is a scoring machine."

Bibby, who has 3-point range, heads a group of five Arizona recruits. With juniors Miles Simon and Michael Dickerson returning, the Wildcats have reason to believe a national title is within their grasp. But they better hurry. The only unresolved matter seems to be how long the Mike Bibby Era will last at Arizona. "You hope to get those kind of kids with those kind of decisions to make," Evans says.

But Bibby will experience his share of ups and downs before being confronted with the "should I go?" question. He will have to become stronger; his passes will need to be creative, not careless; and he will—as everyone must in Olson's program—play passionate defense.

"I'm going to work on it now so he (Olson) doesn't have to yell at me during practice," Bibby says. "I know I like to reach too much on defense. Once I get against better competition, I can't do that."

That competition will include two games against USC. The relationship between Mike and his father has been strained for many years. "I haven't talked to him for two or three months. It's not good at all," Mike Bibby said over the summer.

Bibby's parents are divorced and Mike was raised by his mother, Virginia, who has seen nearly all of Mike's games, including the four state playoff games last year when he totaled 141 points in leading Shadow Mountain to the state title.

"What it means to me is that I accomplished everything," Bibby said after the title game. "Now, I'm ready to go."

To college. For now. ◆

Anthony Gimino covers University of Arizona sports for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson.

FABULOUS FRESH FACES

Mike Bibby isn't the only precocious incoming freshman point guard. The following also are likely to make a sudden impact:

Player, school	Comment
Joe Adkins, Oklahoma State	Oklahoma Player of the Year should start right away.
Mateen Cleaves, Michigan State	Two-sport stud makes Spartans a team to watch.
Ed Cota, North Carolina	Will battle Shammond Williams for Jeff McInnis' old job.
A.J. Guyton, Indiana	Brings much-needed quickness to methodical backcourt.
Jason Hart, Syracuse	The Orangemen would have been blue without a point guard.
Shaheen Holloway, Seton Hall	A speedy remedy for the Pirates' woes? We shall see.
Kevin Morris, Georgia Tech	The New York-to-Atlanta pipeline continues.
Julius Robinson, Auburn	The top signee in an elite class for the Tigers, "Doc" is a smooth operator.
Ed Sheffey, Georgetown	He'll take over Allen Iverson's spot.

middle schooler, he became a St. John's fan when Denver standout Chucky Sproling went east. Billups made regular trips home from Boulder (about 30 minutes) last year and describes how the deaths during his senior year at George Washington High of his maternal grandmother and paternal grandfather influenced his decision. "I just wanted to stay close to home," he says. "I play harder when my family is watching me."

Billups alone was not a cure-all for Colorado last year. The team was racked by problems of ineligibility and off-court shenanigans that culminated in Harrington's resignation and Patton's subsequent housecleaning of bad apples such as high-scoring forward Mack Tuck. Even Billups was involved. During the season, he was disciplined for taking four free video coupons from a campus bookstore. Unlike some of his teammates, however, Billups was highly penitent and even wrote a letter of apology to the school's chancellor, athletic director, student body and Patton.

"I knew I had let my mother and father down," Billups says. "I wanted to apologize to everybody in the state. I embarrassed fans and the university, even though the situation was so minute. It was still a big deal.

"But I'm in a fishbowl. Even when it's midnight and dark, people are watching you. It's difficult to be in the spotlight all the time. I didn't realize how tough it was until the incident."

Life on the court was more rewarding. He averaged 17.9 points, 6.3 rebounds and 5.5 assists last season. Billups topped the 30-point mark four times, shot a solid 35.4 percent from 3-point range and made 86.1 percent of his free throws, including all 16 in a late-season game against Oklahoma. Iowa coach Tom Davis likened him to Anfernee Hardaway. Kansas coach Roy Williams said he was "as gifted a guard as I've ever recruited," hardly faint praise from a man who helped bring Michael Jordan to North Carolina.

Billups appreciates the admiration, but he likes winning more. And since Colorado finished the season 9-18, he didn't find too much to like. "A lot of people thought I might get Big Eight Player of the Year," Billups says. "I didn't buy into that because we weren't winning games." But Billups' skills were a feast for fans. He displayed excellent strength and size, traits that allowed him to operate close to the basket, rebound and draw fouls from less stout defenders. He improved as the year progressed in the finer points of his position, learning when to take over, when to defer and how to contain quicker rivals on defense. Billups did it all with a quiet confidence that permitted him to face (and often best) top-quality rivals without any fear.

"He has a mature game," Patton says. "A lot of guys have trouble adjusting to the next level, but he came in with such strength and size that he was able to take the physical pounding of the Big Eight."

Like-minded players should call the Colorado basketball office immediately. Ask for Chauncey.

MR. CONGENIALITY

It's understandable that UConn coach Jim Calhoun and his staff were frustrated with Ricky Moore last season. At a time when any player on a Division I power thinks he's capable of scoring 30 a night and is a whisker away from the NBA, Moore was actually polite. He deferred to his elders. Heck, he practically referred to Huskies upperclassmen as "Sir."

Whenever Moore joined veteran guards Doron Sheffer and Ray Allen on the court, he promptly played the role of the obedient freshman. He didn't shoot. He didn't attack the basket. If they had asked him to wear a beanie and do 20 push-ups every time he saw them, Moore probably would have complied though that stuff went out with swallowing goldfish and cramming into Volkswagens.

"He acted respectful toward those guys," Calhoun says. "That's unusual in the '90s. I mentioned to him that Doron and Ray would do just fine without him

helping them. His job was to go out and kick Doron's ass in practice and make him better."

And Moore would do that, using his exceptional leaping ability, superior quickness and aggressive defensive abilities to overwhelm Sheffer on occasion. But come game time, the tiger Calhoun saw in practice would be tamed by his teammates. The coach had several one-on-one meetings with his freshman, trying to explain that a great team needed several weapons, not just two. But Moore continued to defer. And frustrate.

Things changed in the Big East title game against Georgetown. With Sheffer and Allen shackled by the aggressive Hoyas defense—much like they were in an earlier 77-65 loss in Washington—Moore emerged. He scored a career-high 14 points, including 10 straight during a dramatic second-half comeback climaxed by Allen's off-balance jumper at the buzzer that produced a 75-74 win. Allen may have made the highlight films, but Moore won the game.

"By the end of the season, I couldn't wait any longer," says Moore, who went to UConn from Westside High in Augusta, Ga. "I know I surprised some people with my play against Georgetown, but I was doing that every day in practice. Some days, I'd kill Doron in practice, but then I didn't want to rush my shots in games.

"I was holding back all year. When I finally started to do something, I got hurt in the next game."

Moore suffered a shoulder injury in the first round of the NCAA Tournament against Colgate that ended his late-season emergence, but he'll have plenty of opportunity to exert his influence on the UConn program this year. Sheffer's graduation and Allen's decision to enter the NBA a year early have left the Huskies without any proven scoring weapons. Though newcomers such as Richard Hamilton and Monquencio Hardnett have excellent pedigrees, and fellow sophomore Rashamel Jones could emerge, Moore is the man Calhoun is expecting to lead the way.

He has company. Boston College coach Jim O'Brien remembers Moore stepping up last December in the late stages of a close game and hitting a key shot in Connecticut's 63-62 win, while the Eagles were in a triangle-and-two designed to stop Sheffer and Allen.

"When Ricky was in there, he changed Connecticut's complexion," O'Brien says. "As clever as Sheffer was, he's not as quick as Moore. He can really get them going up and down the floor."

Villanova coach Steve Lappas agrees: "He is so fast and quick and fits well in their style. He puts pressure on you by pushing the ball upcourt. He can be a great one."

Moore already is one of the Big East's top leapers. Moore hurt himself against Colgate blocking a layup in transition, not a point guard's standard M.O. But anyone who has seen him jump over 10 card-table chairs in succession—wearing weighted shoes—can understand he has some serious springs. He has a future in sales, too. When merchandisers were trying to decide which number they should put on Connecticut jerseys for sale in local sporting goods stores when Allen left, the Huskies were quick to suggest Moore's No. 21. He thinks that's a good choice.

"A lot of our fans are going to be surprised by what I can do," Moore says. "My job last year was to push the ball up the floor and get it to the other guys. Now, with all the younger guys on the team, I'm going to score more."

Members of Connecticut's 1996-97 freshman class had better get used to deferring to Moore. His initiation period is over.

THE WAITING GAME

All those future NBA draft choices. All those high

ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

Penn, who can score and handle the ball, brought a fistful of talent to BC. UConn coach Jim Calhoun lauds Penn's 'character, courage, gusto and fearless attitude.'

BACKCOURT MAESTROS

Kareem Reid, Wayne Turner, Chauncey Billups, Ricky Moore, Scoonie Penn and God Shammgod weren't the only freshman point guards to have superb seasons last year. These guys also are coming off solid seasons and should improve:

Name	School	Last season's averages
Randy Bracy	William & Mary	9.8 ppg, 4.6 apg
Lonnie Cooper	Louisiana Tech	10.5 ppg, 4.4 apg
Tyronn Lue	Nebraska	8.5 ppg, 4.1 apg
Gary Lumpkin	Xavier	11.2 ppg, 3.2 apg
Terrell McIntyre	Clemson	12.7 ppg, 3.1 apg
Ed Norvell	Kent	10.7 ppg, 4.7 apg
Shawnta Rogers	George Washington	10.5 ppg, 6.5 apg
Eddie Shannon	Florida	8.6 ppg, 3.7 apg
Reuben Stiff	Alcorn State	12.7 ppg, 5.4 apg
Terrell Stokes	Maryland	3.3 ppg, 2.8 apg
Damon Stringer	Ohio State	11.3 ppg, 4.6 apg
Brian Williams	Alabama	10.4 ppg, 2.6 apg

school All-Americans. And here was Wayne Turner getting a start for Kentucky against LSU last January. What a thrill. What an opportunity.

What a disaster.

Turner looked great in limited action for the Wildcats in the first 14 games of last season and had demonstrated a growing understanding of the responsibilities of the point guard position, so Rick Pitino decided to give the touted freshman a start. Actually, he gave Turner eight consecutive starts before demoting him to reserve duty. It was too much, too fast. And Turner couldn't handle it.

"I think I put a lot of pressure on myself because I wanted to stay in the starting lineup," Turner says. "I shied away from what my role was. I was thinking about not making mistakes or screwing up, rather than just going out there and playing my game.

"I tried to figure out what I did. During practices and when I was alone in my room, I was thinking about it. I figured I needed to be relaxed and do the best I can, rather than worrying."

Pitino's experiment wasn't a complete disaster, largely because the Wildcats had so much depth and talent that he could test the freshman a little with no real consequences. Kentucky's perfect SEC regular season and the subsequent national title proved that. Pitino could have used an eighth-grader at times, and UK would have prevailed. The eight-game stretch with Turner as a starter didn't hurt last year, but it could be beneficial this season. Turner is expected to see considerably more time this year, thanks to the graduation of Tony Delk, and should be more confident.

"Wayne was a great high school player in a very weak (high school) league," Pitino says. "He did it all in high school (Beaver Country Day in Chestnut Hill, Mass.) and had a lot to learn. When I started him, he tried to be a set-it-up point guard, like Anthony Epps, instead of a scoring point guard, which he was. He wasn't being Wayne Turner."

Turner couldn't have expected a starting opportunity when he chose to play at Kentucky. He knew Delk, Epps and Allen Edwards were returning in the backcourt, so there was no way he'd be getting the 30-35 minutes he might have received at another school. But Turner didn't mind waiting—or winning. Like Ron Mercer, considered by many the 1994-95 high school player of the year, he felt the lure of playing for a team with an excellent opportunity to win a national title was substantial. If that meant a year of less playing time than standout freshmen at other schools, so be it.

The apprenticeship also gave Turner a chance to improve his defense and work on his outside shooting, two skills that weren't developed when he arrived in Lexington. Although Turner enters this season an improved defender, he still needs to work on his outside shot. Though he made an impressive 53.3 percent of his field-goal attempts last year, he shot mostly layups and runners. Turner attempted just four 3-pointers and made but 62.5 percent of his free-throw attempts.

"Teams would go zone on us the minute Wayne came into the game," Pitino says. "He has to get better at shooting the ball with range."

That doesn't mean Turner is not poised to excel this year. Pitino isn't promising a starting berth, but he can guarantee at least "20 minutes a game," and that's not so bad. And should Turner get the starting nod, he expects to play with confidence, proving to Kentucky fans that last year's midseason stumble was an exception, not the norm. He already has a fan in Arkansas' Kareem Reid, who played against Turner in AAU ball and last season in the SEC.

"You never know what Wayne's going to do next," Reid says. "He doesn't look quick, but he is quick. He has good hands. He doesn't give you a chance to set up on defense because his hands are so quick."

Turner hopes he'll be hearing similar testimonials by the end of the season.

"I know there are a lot of people who have seen me play and know what I can do, but some people just don't know," he says. "I'm not going to go out and try to prove to people how good I am, but I do want to show I'm as good as any point guard in the nation. I was just in a situation where I had to wait my turn."

SUDDEN IMPACT

The 1994-95 season was still in its infancy when Jim O'Brien knew his Boston College team was in trouble. Non-conference lightweights like Hartford and Fordham were coming at the Eagles with full-court presses, showing no respect for BC's Big East affiliation or previous season's run to the Elite Eight. The Eagles had one guard—freshman Duane Woodward—so rivals were going to attack the ball. An aggressive high school team might have given BC fits.

Scoonie Penn took notice of Boston College's predicament from his home in Salem, Mass., and realized there was plenty of playing time to be had for a guard who could handle it and score. The 5-10 Penn did both during his high school career, scoring 2,189 points and averaging seven assists as a senior. No more perfect marriage was ever arranged in any kingdom. And no happier outcome could have come from any storybook.

"He was the MVP at Boston College," UConn coach Jim Calhoun says. "He took a team that had won two Big East games the year before and got them into the NCAA Tournament. He brought character, courage, gusto and a fearless attitude to the team, and he helped will that team to the tournament."

Though Danya Abrams, BC's two-time first-team All-Big East forward, might dispute Calhoun's assertion that Penn carried the Eagles to the tourney, there is little denying the boost Penn provided last season. Most teams that tried to press Boston College failed, thanks to Penn's ability to race the ball upcourt. Penn penetrated well, organized the team on offense and averaged 13.2 points. He played more minutes (34.5 per game) than any other Eagle and earned Big East Rookie of the Year honors.

He did it with a quiet confidence and commitment to improvement that impressed O'Brien. While many freshmen make sizeable impacts, few demonstrate the work habits and discipline needed to improve until later in their careers. From the moment practice started last October, Penn played and acted like an upperclassman.

"He had a maturity about his game from the very beginning," O'Brien says. "He also has shown a willingness to work on his game. A lot of times, freshmen think they're working hard, but they don't know what working hard is all about until they have at least their first year under their belts. Scoonie worked in practice at game speed and took a very serious approach toward his development. That was refreshing."

Anyone who knew Penn before BC could have predicted that kind of behavior. From the time he started playing basketball (he preferred football at first), Penn was an active and conscientious student of the game. Because his mother was working and his father wasn't around, Penn had plenty of free time. He chose sports over the trouble waiting on the streets and soon became a fixture on local courts and at the Salem Boys Club. By the time he got to Salem High, Penn was on a track to stardom.

That didn't mean he wasn't capable of learning lessons. After missing some crucial free throws during games, one in a championship matchup at a summer camp and another during an important game his junior year at Salem, Penn vowed to become a crack foul shooter. Last year, he made 75.5 percent of his freebies, a great total for any collegian and a tremendous accomplishment for a freshman. "It just takes a lot of hard work and concentration," Penn says. But he didn't work hard in the classroom and is academically ineligible the first semester this season.

O'Brien doesn't like to describe Penn as a point guard, although the freshman was running the team during the second half of the season and led BC in assists. O'Brien would rather have him classified merely as a "guard," someone capable of doing all the jobs required of a backcourt performer. That's OK with Penn, who did just about everything but shoot well (31.4 percent) from 3-point range last season.

"I'm interchangeable," Penn says. "If you need a true point guard, I can do that, no problem. But if you need me to score, I can score."

Last year, BC just plain needed Penn. And he delivered.

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

OK, maybe he should have shot more. God Shammgod recognizes that now. The penetrating and passing (he set a Big East freshman assist

record with 189 en route to finishing second in the league) were great. He played strong defense. He even stood up against the inevitable razzing because of his name. When this season starts, you can bet Shammgod is going to average more than the 9.6 points he did in 1995-96. He shot it in high school, and he's going to start shooting it in college. It's just that he didn't think college point guards were supposed to do that—especially freshman point guards.

"I looked for other people's shots more than I look for my own," says Shammgod, who helped Providence to 18 victories last season. "I was out there to get assists and run the team. If everything else broke down, I had to step up. Last year, I had to be more of a pure point guard because the team didn't know me and I didn't know them. This year, I'll be both."

Shammgod sure played like a pure point man last year—in the best and worst senses of the term. During the first half of the 1995-96 season, he was among the nation's leaders in assists, dutifully running the team and setting up his teammates. Though he wore down some as the season progressed—"He just got beat up," Providence coach Pete Gillen says—Shammgod finished with a strong 2-1 assist-turnover ratio and averaged 1.4 steals. "He is very, very clever at getting into the lane and creating," Boston College coach Jim O'Brien says.

But Shammgod shot only 33.6 percent from the field and a dismal 20.9 percent from 3-point range. Some of that was because of his aforementioned reticence, but there were other contributing factors, most notably his ability as a prep standout to blow past just about anybody and get to the basket for easy shots. That doesn't happen in college, where larger defenders loom to protect teammates who get scorched.

"He was so great as a penetrator in high school (New York's LaSalle Academy) that he didn't have to concentrate on his shooting much," Gillen says. "That's not unusual for a great playmaker."

Shammgod also was subject to twice the hype and scrutiny of any normal blue-chip recruit, thanks to his name. Throughout his prep career, he went by Shammgod Wells, but he decided to return to his given name before entering Providence. The switch attracted considerable attention and spawned a cottage industry of clever remarks. Gillen didn't understand the furor. After all, a Catholic school should have God on its side. Shammgod was even less impressed. It was his name. Big deal.

"I love my name," he says. "It's the name my father and mother gave me, and I love them."

Throughout this season, everybody should be concentrating on Shammgod's game, rather than his name. Like the Friars, who narrowly missed a trip to the NCAA Tournament and settled for a NIT bid, he is on the rise. Expect to see a more confident player at the point this season in Providence, one who won't be reticent around his teammates. Shammgod has spent one season acquainting himself with the rest of the roster. This year, he expects to lead it.

"There's a way you become a star," he says. "You're not going to do it if you don't have sacrifices and struggles along the way. The team respects me now, and I'm going to be a leader. I like it that way. That's the way I was in high school. You either come to play or you don't play."

Give that man the ball. ◆

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

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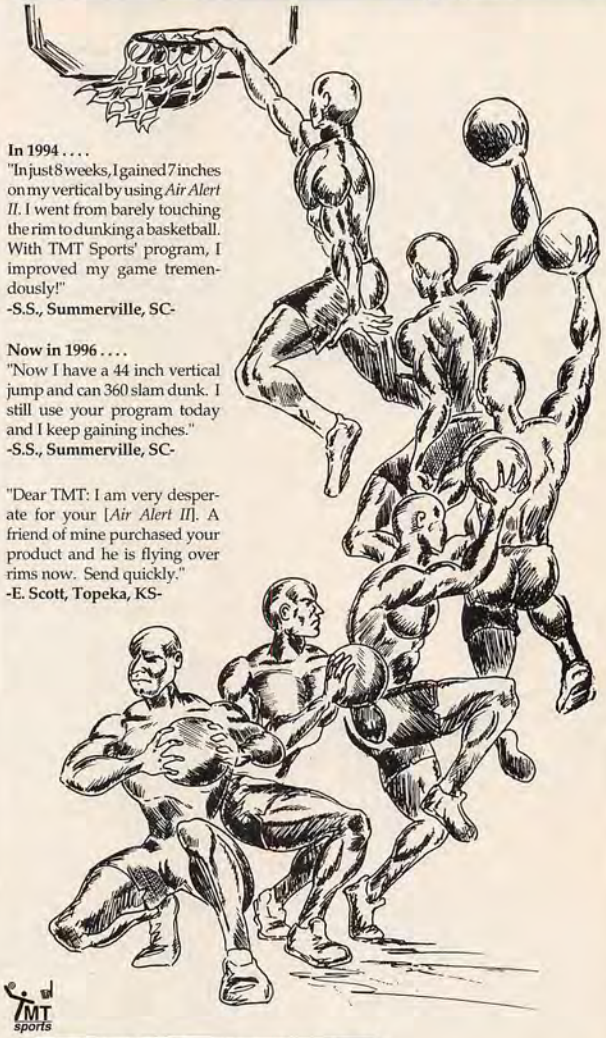

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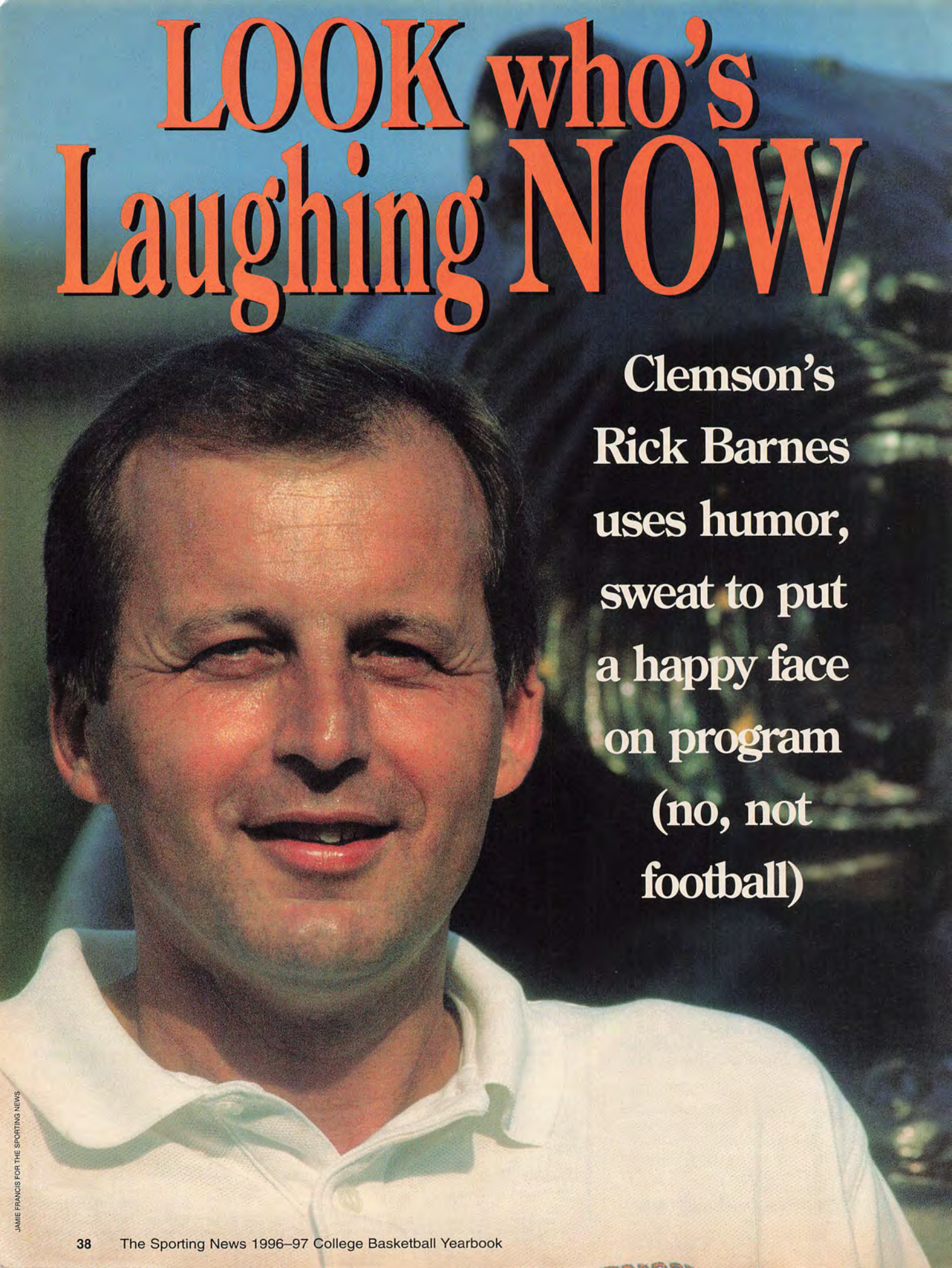
LOOK who's Laughing NOW

Clemson's Rick Barnes uses humor, sweat to put a happy face on program (no, not football)



JAMIE FRANCIS FOR THE SPORTING NEWS

By Josh Peter

Fifty milligrams of Ritalin, a handful of Valium, a muzzle, a straitjacket and a stun gun. That's probably what it would take to subdue Clemson basketball coach Rick Barnes, but by now it's too late.

It's already 6:50 a.m.

"What's up, baby?" he half-sings, greeting a fellow traveler at the Greenville-Spartanburg (S.C.) Airport before delivering unsettling news. "I need some caffeine."

Barnes needs caffeine like Pamela Anderson needs a Wonderbra. Propelled by pure energy, he moves through life with the force of a tropical storm, engaging almost everyone in his path.

His first victim today is the flight attendant, who is passing out boxed breakfasts and offering—God help us all—regular coffee.

"He's writing a story about me," Barnes announces, nodding at this reporter. "I'm running for president in the year 2000."

The woman pauses, her face locked in a bemused grin.

"Really," he says. "I'm working on the campaign right now. Will you vote for me?"

She rolls her eyes and heads for the back of the plane.

"Guess I lost her vote," Barnes says.

At Clemson, he would win in a landslide with the same strategy he has used as the school's basketball coach—hard work and humor. Lots of humor.

"I like to have fun," Barnes says, embarking on a two-day recruiting swing in July. "I like to laugh and I like to make other people laugh. But there's a time to be serious, too."

Judging by his recent success, after 19 years of coaching and 42 years of living, Barnes may have found the perfect balance.

When he isn't on the court, you might find him streaking through the locker room or dumping Gatorade on his players or even commandeering airline beverage carts. But between cutting up and cracking up, Barnes has put other jokes to rest—the ones about Clemson basketball.

JAMIE FRANCIS FOR THE SPORTING NEWS

Conducting a basketball boot camp or cutting up with his players, Barnes attains his goal—winning.

No one's laughing at the Tigers anymore. Two seasons after inheriting what seemed to be one of the thinnest collections of talent in Atlantic Coast Conference history, Barnes presides over a Top 25 team—No. 18, in fact, in The Sporting News' 1996-97 preseason poll—expected to contend for the league title and, in time, a spot among the nation's elite.

"It's unbelievable," Clemson athletic director Bobby Robinson says. "He's done more in two years than we ever could have expected."

Crackling with energy, Barnes plugged himself into the school's program on March 22, 1994, and recharged the Tigers. But first he had some rewiring to do.

"As soon as we got here, we told the players things were changing," he says.

Three months, one defection and one dismissal later, five players remained. There was little laughter among them during those early months when they saw a different side of Barnes—the side Bob Knight would admire.

Basketball boot camp started that summer with Barnes' reveille often blasting the players awake by 5:30 a.m., and anything short of all-out effort was unacceptable. Once, as punishment, he called them all back to Littlejohn Coliseum for a timed, midnight mile run.

Barnes occasionally drove the players so hard, they were running and retching at the same time. "It was a living hell," guard Merl Code says.

When the newcomers arrived and official fall practice began, things were just as ugly. One day, walk-on Geoff Gardner, all but foaming at the mouth as he charged toward the basket, slammed into forward Andy Kelly, then crashed to the floor. Livid, Kelly grabbed the ball and whipped it at the walk-on. Gardner caught the ball and returned fire, plunking Kelly in the head.

"Gardner," Barnes barked, "you're on the team."

Then they knew: Only the fittest and the feistiest would survive.

Barnes was determined to whip the slothful program into shape almost overnight. Either that or run off all of the scholarship players.

"We were prepared to play that entire season with kids from the student body," he says. "I'm serious. I didn't care if we lost every single game. The bottom line is the players were going to do things our way."

Barnes' way. It has become as clear-cut as his "go-go line," the black electrical tape he had stripped across the floor between the tunnel entrance and the court at Littlejohn Coliseum. It's a border that divides separate worlds.

On the court, it's all business. Off the court, it's monkey business. After practice, Barnes all but frisks his players for bad vibes just to make sure they don't take any back to the locker room—even if it means demanding a kiss. Yes, after one workout, Barnes refused to let the players leave until one volunteered to pucker up and "give me some sugar" on the cheek.

"I don't remember who kissed him," guard Bill Harder says. "I was so tired I just wanted to get outta there."

Most of them left laughing—all part of the strategy.

Humor and hard work. It's a powerful mix that Barnes served his team and one he learned about while growing up in Hickory, N.C.

Nestled in the foothills about 60 miles northwest of Charlotte, Hickory is a growing city with a small-town feel. Despite the arrival of fiber-optic plants and other high-tech industry, plenty of folks still work for one of the local furniture factories or mills and get by with few extravagances.

The Barnes family had none. Nights without heat. Nights without hot water. Packing up when the rent money ran out and, one step ahead of the landlord, moving on.

Barnes remembers it all, as well as the nine houses his family lived in. Eventually all nine were demolished, as was a part of the family's history he would just as soon forget.

Divorced, his mother, Mary, worked the third shift at Roy Good Hosiery pairing socks and later serving as a supervisor. She provided her four sons and daughter with the basic necessities, which was about all she could afford.

"When school started every year, my mother bought me two pair of blue jeans and two shirts, and I alternated the shirts and the blue jeans every day," Barnes says. "When I was in the seventh grade, everybody else had Converse (sneakers) on. I was wearing those shoes from Pic 'n' Pay that had the green bottoms.

"People made fun of me for the clothes I wore, and you know what? I'd just knock the (expletive) out of them. I'd say, 'OK, you want to make fun of me? I'm going to whip your ass.' Pretty soon you get a reputation and people start to leave you alone."

Barnes also had a reputation as a cutup and a prankster, the family clown. It was a reputation well-deserved. For example, there was the day when as a 13-year-old he bet his brothers he'd ride his bike down the street buck-naked. He collected the $5 prize, but only after pedaling back furiously with a police car in pursuit.

Laughter was his medicine, basketball his salvation. And Barnes needed both.

The summer before he entered the eighth grade, his sister, Sandy, died in a car accident. The family struggled to deal with its loss. Barnes struggled to deal with his anger.

"I went off the deep end," he says.

Teachers and coaches pulled him back.

"For whatever reason, those people took great interest in me, and I can't tell you why," he says. "But they started making me toe the line, and you know what they did? They made me feel good about me. They were all very demanding, but I knew they cared. It got to where I wouldn't do anything to disappoint them."

He didn't.

Rededicating himself to school and basketball, he became the top player at Hickory High and, in a tribute to his desire more than talent, earned a scholarship to Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory. Four years later, following a mediocre college playing career, he traded in his high tops for a coach's whistle and kept on hustling.

Davidson, George Mason, Alabama and Ohio State. During nine years as an assistant, Barnes made stops at all of them. After a return trip to George Mason, where in 1987-88 he led the Patriots to a 20-10 record as a rookie coach, he hit the big time. At age 33, he was named coach at Providence.

The scrappy kid from Hickory was up against the coaching legends of the Big East—St. John's Lou Carnesecca, Georgetown's John Thompson and Villanova's Rollie Massimino—and made a name for himself. Five times in six years, Barnes led the Friars to postseason play, including three trips to the NCAA Tournament. Yet while the league's coaches accepted him as one of their own, the Providence fans never did.

Most of the Friars' fans longed for a different Rick—Rick Pitino, the coach who had taken the Friars to the Final Four in 1986-87. The coach who after that memorable season jumped to the NBA. Slick and smart, Pitino was the quintessential coach for an Italian town in Rhode Island. Barnes, on the other hand, was forever the outsider. A Southerner.

"People never really gave him a chance," says Bill Reynolds, a columnist for the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*. "It was almost like they tolerated him when he won, and they jumped on him when he lost."

Barnes insists that the Pitino legacy and the disenchanted fans were never problems. But after guiding the Friars to the 1993-94 Big East Tournament title, the first in school history, he left for Clemson.

In the end, he had little choice.

Two years after Barnes arrived at Providence, Virginia offered him its coaching job and a chance to return to his Southern roots. To the dismay of his wife, Candy, also from Hickory, Barnes turned it down a few days after accepting it. "The timing just wasn't right," he says of his about-face, which led to Virginia hiring Jeff Jones.

Four years and countless Eastern snowstorms later, Clemson made its pitch for Barnes. Still homesick, Candy saw it as the perfect opportunity. "I don't know what you're doing," she told him, "but I'm going to Clemson."

Rick, Candy and their two children soon set off for Clemson, with Barnes embarking on the gamble of his career.

Disaster. That's what Barnes walked into when he replaced Cliff Ellis at Clemson.

The Tigers had disgraced themselves on the court with four consecutive losing seasons in ACC play. With the team's grade-point average dipping to a low of 1.69, they had disgraced themselves in the classroom as well.

Moreover, penalties stemming from NCAA violations committed under Ellis restricted Barnes and his staff to just two paid on-campus recruiting trips that first year instead of the full allotment of 12. The penalties loomed as a significant handicap considering most top prospects would be less than eager, maybe even unwilling, to pay for their own trip to Clemson.

BART BOATWRIGHT / GREENVILLE (S.C.) NEWS

Barnes, never at a loss for words, has been known to rail at the referees and—all respect aside—even do battle with the revered one, Dean Smith.

"Believe me," Barnes told anyone who would listen, "we'll find a way to get it done."

Find a way? At Providence, critics questioned his coaching ability. At Clemson, they questioned his sanity.

Today, they question neither.

Barnes and the two assistants he brought from Providence, Larry Shyatt and Dennis Felton, have lived up to their reputation as savvy recruiters. Their best move yet: signing Greg Buckner, a 6-4 forward from Hopkinsville, Ky. Buckner, spurned by Louisville's Denny Crum and ignored by Pitino at Kentucky, won ACC Rookie of the Year honors in 1994-95 and has emerged as the Tigers' rising star.

More potential stars—including guard Terrell McIntyre and swingman Tony Christie—arrived last year as part of a seven-player class

that most recruiting analysts rated among the 10 best in the nation. And entering school this fall is another stockpile of talent, including North Carolina's high school player of the year, Vincent Whitt.

As if by magnetism, Barnes and his staff are attracting players who in past years would have headed elsewhere. So what's the secret? "One, we really believe in what we're doing," Barnes says. "I think that's a big thing. People can feel when you believe in something, and we feel like we've got something special going here."

He's not the only one. The Tigers' success also has turned the heads of recruiting analysts.

"I don't think any school in the country has had more consecutive outstanding recruiting classes than Clemson," says recruiting analyst Bob Gibbons of All Star Scouting Service, based in Lenoir, N.C. "They have gone *ka-bing, ka-bing, ka-bing* and really built that program all over."

Ka-pow! That's what Barnes did to the rap that he was a good recruiter but a mediocre coach.

In his first season at Clemson, with a lineup that included no starter taller than 6-7, Barnes led a team picked to finish last in the ACC to 15 victories and a bid to the NIT. Last season, even though injuries left four freshmen and a sophomore in the starting lineup, Barnes guided the team to an 18-11 record and to the program's first NCAA Tournament bid in six years.

"Rick's done a fantastic job in a very short time," Wake Forest coach Dave Odom says. "He's one of those coaches that has what seems like a limitless abundance of energy, adrenaline and enthusiasm, and he can turn things around quickly.

"It's already clear this is not a fly-by-night operation. It's one that's going to be around for a long time."

Clemson fans, buoyed by the promise of lasting success, aren't the only ones cheering; so are faculty members. During fall semester, the team managed a 2.4 GPA, Clemson's highest in more than a decade.

Now, with all five returning starters bolstered by a deep bench, the Tigers march toward perhaps their toughest test yet: a season-opening matchup against defending national champion Kentucky. "Is that big or what, baby?" Barnes says.

A victory would be even bigger, and could make for another wild ride home. On the team's return flight after an overtime victory at Miami last season, Barnes grabbed the beverage cart and did his best impersonation of The Flight Attendant from Hell. Exploding soda cans. Flying ice cubes. Players ducking for cover.

Another time, he instigated a Gatorade fight with freshman center Tom Wideman, the two tearing around the locker room like grade-schoolers. As Wideman gave chase, Barnes stayed one step ahead, laughing and at the same time imploring, "Don't slip! Don't slip!"

"He never did catch me," Barnes says. "Heh, heh, heh."

In private, his cackle grows louder when he's reminded of what skeptics cracked: Clemson fans would show support for the basketball team only when the players started wearing shoulder pads and helmets.

Think again.

Last year, *sans* football gear, the Tigers sold out 11,020-seat Littlejohn Coliseum six times—one sellout shy of the school season record—and posted the highest season attendance total in Clemson history. In August, with helmets cracking and two-a-days under way in a state where football is king, Barnes was fielding questions about his team when he deadpanned, "That's blasphemy to be talking about basketball now, isn't it?"

Yet it's happening with more regularity, especially with the Clemson and South Carolina basketball programs on the rise and, collectively, enjoying more success than the football teams.

You can trace much of the excitement at Clemson to two defining moments. Both came at the ACC Tournament when Barnes did something most past Clemson coaches never even dared try.

First, he confronted North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

A wild, foot-stomping scene punctuated the coaches' first meeting in a regular-season game, which came in January 1995 at Clemson. Barnes was ejected after railing at the officials for charging his team with 32 fouls compared to only nine for the Heels. Smith took exception to Barnes' antics and the Tigers' bump-and-grind style. Barnes took exception to Smith's public sniping about Clemson's "physical" play.

The simmering feud boiled over weeks later at the conference tournament. Following a hard Clemson foul in the final minutes of North Carolina's victory over the Tigers, the coaches squared off in an ugly midcourt confrontation.

"Go ahead—hit me, Rick," Smith taunted, according to courtside observers.

Barnes held back, but league commissioner Gene Corrigan slapped both coaches with a $2,500 fine. For Barnes, it was money well-spent. When he boarded the team bus that night, Tigers captain Bruce Martin stopped him. "Coach," he said, "thanks for standing up for us."

Clemson's fans were just as grateful. Letters of praise poured in and so did encouraging phone calls. One group of fans gave Barnes golf balls stamped with a picture of Dean Smith.

Golf balls stamped with the picture of a referee would make a fitting gift, too. Wait for a few questionable calls and you'll see. Like a Doberman straining on a leash, Barnes prowls the full length of his team's bench, growling at the same refs he was schmoozing before the game.

"I kid him all the time when I see him," Georgetown's Thompson says. "I tell him to stay (aggressive). Don't worry about all that ACC bull—be Big East."

In that rough-and-tumble league, the Tigers would fit right in.

"We're absolutely not going to be intimidated," Barnes remembers telling his players. "And if you are, you're going to have a real problem with me and I'm going to have a real problem with you."

His players, now among the toughest defenders in the ACC, clearly got the message. A year after Barnes' midcourt showdown with Smith, the Tigers met the Tar Heels again in the first round of the ACC Tournament, setting up the second defining moment. With a dramatic 75-73 triumph, the Tigers toppled history. It was Clemson's first victory over North Carolina in six tries under Barnes, and its first victory over the Tar Heels in 12 attempts at the 43-year tournament.

Back at Clemson, students intoxicated with victory—and, by then, who knows what else—rushed into the streets for an all-night celebration. If the Tigers hadn't been playing the next day, Barnes might have been in the middle of it all, buying a round for the entire student body. After all, when students camped out all night outside Littlejohn Coliseum for the first set of ACC tourney tickets, Barnes was there with free hot chocolate. A few weeks later when, despite freezing temperatures, students camped out for the second set of ACC tickets, he showed up with 40 boxes of pizza and opened the doors of Littlejohn Coliseum for a giant slumber party.

His famous daredevil stunt came last year at the first football pep rally. The featured speaker, Barnes capped the festivities by diving off the stage like one of those grunge rockers and landing in the arms of cheering students.

Embraced by the fans, Barnes has embraced the school's football tradition. He joined the pregame tailgate radio show the fall after he arrived and has a been a regular contributor since. Riding shotgun in a golf cart, he cruises the campus interviewing fans for the Clemson Sports Network before each home game.

Previous radio experience? Didn't need any. Barnes is a natural.

"The original leather lung," says Eddie Biedenbach, who as Davidson's coach in 1978 gave Barnes his first college job (an assistant's position).

You see, Barnes will talk to anybody. Flight attendants, parking attendants, bus drivers, bus boys, court reporters, sports reporters, even Dean Smith. Honest, he actually was chatting with his old nemesis at the Nike All-American high school basketball summer camp in Indianapolis.

Of course, who *didn't* Barnes talk to while whirling about the gym trading one-liners, plays and gossip with his colleagues?

"I'm wired, baby," he says. "You didn't know that, did you?"

Except for his boyish face and blue eyes that dance when he's up to mischief, there is little that distinguishes Barnes physically—average height, thinning brown hair, slight gut. It's when he opens his mouth and goes into that "Shocked you, baby, didn't I?" act that strangers are perplexed and bemused at the same time.

How else would you react to someone who sidles up to a complete stranger on an airport tram and, nodding at this reporter, says to the man, "I'll give you $100 if you help me mug him." Or to someone who looks over at the same reporter, then says to the woman behind the car rental counter, "Tell me something: If you saw this guy walking down the street, would you say to yourself, 'Boy, is he ugly!' "

Almost always Barnes leaves them laughing, and the laughter helps fuel him as he chases his dream of winning a national championship. On his own terms.

"When I came to Clemson, I promised myself I was going to enjoy this job," Barnes says. "The day I wake up and I'm not excited about going to work, I'll quit."

And run for president, no doubt. Right, baby? ◆

Josh Peter covers Clemson for The State in Columbia, S.C.

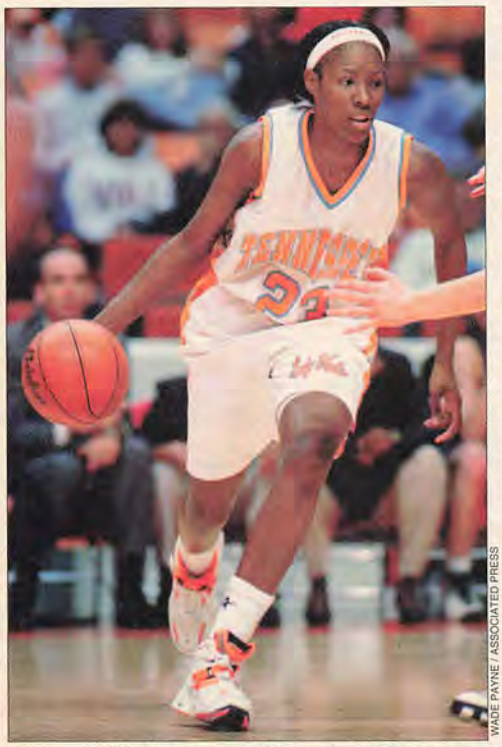
In Holdsclaw, Lady Vols have a star with staying power

By Michelle Voepel

Three days a week over the summer, Chamique Holdsclaw's alarm rang early. The top freshman in the country last season, and certain to be one of nation's best players this season, Holdsclaw could have hit the snooze bar.

But she got out of bed at 6 a.m. and headed to the track. All at the "suggestion" of coach Pat Summitt. "Pat says it's optional," Holdsclaw says, "but you know that means you better be there."

Holdsclaw, who is 6-2, is a star of the future, yet the good news is she'll be around for three more seasons. You won't see her skip any workouts, just like you won't see her skip any of her college career to jump to a pro league. And, yes, such a thing exists now in the United States, with the American Basketball League starting this fall and the Women's NBA scheduled to begin next year.



WADE PAYNE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holdsclaw averaged 16.2 points and 9.1 boards—but says she needs to work on her 'weaknesses.'

The two pro leagues say they don't anticipate taking early departures. Of course, it wouldn't matter if they did, because Holdsclaw—whose first name is pronounced *Sha-mee-kwa*—happily will put in four years in Knoxville. She's there to learn from the best: Last season's NCAA championship was the Lady Vols' and Summit's fourth.

Besides, can pro hoops be as good as, let alone better than, Rocky Top? OK, so that hokey jingle might not be the first choice in music for a native New Yorker used to the boombox accompaniment of playground hoops in the big city. Holdsclaw is from Queens, where she led Christ the King High School to four consecutive state titles.

Summitt first noticed Holdsclaw as a high school sophomore in an AAU event. How soon did the coach know she wanted her? "Immediately," Summitt says. "She's a very fluid athlete, very graceful. She has deceptive quickness—you're watching her, and then she's just by you. I think any coach in America would want a player like Chamique."

Yes, everyone wanted her; Tennessee got her. She heard Summitt call her a "Cheryl Miller-type player," and being a humble teenager, that bugged her. She didn't think she deserved such praise. Of course, that was before practice started. Summitt put the rookies through fundamental drills and saw Holdsclaw watch her shot instead of follow it. The coach announced to the world, "Chamique, you may be the worst rebounder on our team."

Nothing like a little wicked Summitt hyperbole to get a freshman's blood flowing. "She does get on me," Holdsclaw says. "There are days when I run sprints half of practice." She laughs.

"I don't like it, and maybe I say things under my breath, but ... sometimes I think, 'If you're gonna yell at me, I'm going to get right back at you.' I want to show her I can do it," Holdsclaw says.

Holdsclaw had few stumbles last season. There was the ultra-rare Tennessee two-game losing streak in early January. And an injury to her right knee—she hurt the medial collateral ligament —in the SEC Tournament title game. Doctors said with a brace, the knee was in no danger of being injured further. All Holdsclaw had to do was be able to play with some pain. Before the Tennessee-Connecticut NCAA semifinal, Huskies coach Geno Auriemma joked that Holdsclaw needed a second opinion on her knee. She had 13 points and six rebounds in an 88-83 overtime victory.

Two nights later, she was even better. Holdsclaw had 16 points and 14 boards—worst rebounder on the team, eh?—as Tennessee beat Georgia, 83-65, for the title. Georgia's Andy Landers gave a frustrated coach's evaluation of Holdsclaw: "You've seen the problem. She's too quick to be guarded by a small forward, and she's too big to be guarded by a guard."

It was quite a week for an 18-year-old: winning a national championship and making the All-America team. "It was all a dream come true," Holdsclaw says. "But sometime you have to come down to reality."

As in, what's next. After averaging 16.2 points and 9.1 rebounds—the most successful Tennessee freshman season ever—Holdsclaw wants to work on her "weaknesses." "I think my defense and my ballhandling," she says. "My 3-point shot, as you probably saw, wasn't very good. I want to bring a certain excitement to the game."

Summitt, whose job it is to find things wrong with Holdsclaw and let her know about it, says, "She has all the potential to be one of the greatest. No, we're not there yet. This year, we'll learn a lot. She'll have more responsibility than she had a year ago. Her last five seasons have ended with championships. This will be her biggest challenge."

And then Summitt chuckles and says, "She has kept things in perspective so well. She's just fun to be with. And as much as I am on her in practice, I enjoy watching her. You never know what she's going to do."

Around the nation

Two coaches due good fortune are LSU's **Sue Gunter** and Arizona's **Joan Bonvicini**. Their "bubble" teams didn't make the NCAAs last year, and their disappointment was live on ESPN. They deserve a better bid day in '97. ... **Chris Gobrecht** left Washington to try to make a winner out of Florida State—an effort ACC fans will appreciate. But the ACC is so good top to bottom, she shouldn't expect much this season. ... The Big Ten led all conferences in attendance last season. Four Big Ten teams—Wisconsin, Penn State, Purdue and Iowa—were in the top 10. The Big East's Connecticut, which averaged 8,183 per home game, was No. 1. ... Old Dominion, Louisiana Tech and Connecticut weren't challenged in league play last season. Expect that the Colonial Athletic Association, the Sun Belt and the Big East will be stronger. ... We love Conference USA. In last season's league tourney title game, the Blue Demons (De Paul), who won the Blue Division, lost to the Tigers (Memphis), who won the White Division, after the teams won semifinal matches over Red Division members the Golden Eagles (Southern Miss) and the Green Wave (Tulane). Uh, that was after Southern Miss won a quarterfinal over the league's other Golden Eagles—Marquette, which is in the Blue Division. Good thing this stuff isn't on the SAT. ◆

Michelle Voepel covers women's sports for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va.

TOP 25

1. STANFORD: A fun, eclectic bunch, led by dazzling do-everything guard/forward Kate Starbird. Coach Tara VanDerveer is back, and she'll have everything she needs to win a national title—including a core group of juniors who have the experience of two Final Fours behind them.

2. ALABAMA: The Tide is loaded. Shalonda Enis was fabulous last season, and she'll be joined inside by Yolanda Watkins, returning from a knee injury that sidelined her last season.

3. GEORGIA: It sure seemed like Georgia should have won the national title last season. Coach Andy Landers lost All-America guard Saudia Roundtree, but forward La'Keshia Frett returns for her senior year.

4. OLD DOMINION: The Portuguese connection has brought ODU back near the top. The Monarchs have a deep bench and play withering defense.

5. TENNESSEE: The terrific backcourt of Michelle Marciniak and Latina Davis is gone. But everybody else is back, including sophomore star Chamique Holdsclaw.

6. IOWA: Will the mega-recruiting class of '94 hit its stride? There are some questions at guard, but the inside game with Tangela Smith and Amy Herrig should be very powerful.

7. N.C. STATE: Junior post Chastity Melvin can be the best player in the ACC—if she puts her mind to it. The Wolfpack should have plenty of scoring options and may be the best team in a very tough league.

8. CONNECTICUT: The Huskies this low? Guess it's just hard to imagine UConn without Jennifer Rizzotti in the driver's seat. Still, once the point guard question is answered, all the other pieces are there.

9. WESTERN KENTUCKY: The Purdue transfers are eligible, and the freshman class is highly ranked. The Hilltoppers hope to forget about last season and reclaim their status in the Sun Belt and nationally.

10. DUKE: The Blue Devils are quick and accurate inside. That, excellent guard play led by Kira Orr and improved defense will keep Duke strong in the ACC.

11. VANDERBILT: Smooth scoring machine Sheri Sam is gone, but Vandy should look and play pretty much the same as it always does.

12. VIRGINIA: Point guard Tora Suber is incredibly quick. Wendy Palmer, who has graduated, was the best post defender the Cavs have had. Youngsters can cover her point production inside, but may struggle with defense.

13. LOUISIANA TECH: Graduation hit hard, including the loss of Vickie Johnson and Debra Williams from the backcourt. But a talented sophomore class should help make up for that.

14. TEXAS TECH: Tech lost a lot of talent and heart with the graduation of center Michi Atkins. But top-notch coach Marsha Sharp has good guards and Alicia Thompson inside.

15. NORTH CAROLINA: Talk about athletes. The Tar Heels defined inconsistency last season, but youngsters grow up and redshirt junior point guard Marion Jones returns. When this team clicks, it will be a blast to watch.

16. PENN STATE: Senior post player Angie Potthoff is an All-American on guts alone; she also has an uncanny hoops sense. The Lions have to prove themselves in the backcourt.

17. TEXAS: Guard play is a strength, led by sharpshooter Danielle Viglione. The Southwest Conference is gone, but the great rivalry with Texas Tech continues.

18. COLORADO: Seniors Erin Scholz and Raegan Scott are tough, strong post players. Sophomore guard Michelle Hasheider should blossom under the excellent coaching of Ceal Barry.

19. CLEMSON: Coach Jim Davis finds talent where no one else sees it. His Tigers, who won their first ACC title last season, are deep and solid defensively.

20. KANSAS: Never-stop-shooting Tamecka Dixon, part of a strong senior class, might make or break the Jayhawks. Coach Marian Washington hopes to get the best out of Dixon this year.

21. NOTRE DAME: Guard Beth Morgan and forward Katryna Gaither lead a senior class as the Irish hope to challenge UConn's domination in the Big East.

22. FLORIDA: In the past two NCAA Tournaments, the Gators haven't played as well as they probably think they should have. A small team, but one with great leapers and quickness.

23. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: Post player Tina Thompson ought to have a great senior season. USC is strong and deep inside and could give Stanford some worries in the Pac-10.

24. AUBURN: The Tigers had a terrific run through the NCAAs last year. One of coach Joe Ciampi's big challenges is replacing the leadership of guard Kristen Mulligan.

25. GEORGE WASHINGTON: GW should be the best in the Atlantic 10 again, led by powerful post player Tajama Abraham.

TSN's Preseason All-America Team

FIRST TEAM

C Kara Wolters, Connecticut, 6-7, Sr.
F Shalonda Enis, Alabama, 6-1, Sr.
F Chamique Holdsclaw, Tennessee, 6-2, Soph.
G/F Kate Starbird, Stanford, 6-2, Sr.
G Tora Suber, Virginia, 5-7, Sr.

SECOND TEAM

F La'Keshia Frett, Georgia, 6-2, Sr.
C/F Angie Potthoff, Penn State, 6-1, Sr.
F Nykesha Sales, Connecticut, 6-0, Jr.
G Cindy Blodgett, Maine, 5-9, Jr.
G Ticha Penicheiro, Old Dominion, 5-11, Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Kate Starbird, G/F, Stanford

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Jaime Walz, G, Western Kentucky

COACH OF THE YEAR
Rick Moody, Alabama

Everything's Koul

By Michael Bradley

Although Mike Jarvis' biting remarks after George Washington's 74-65 loss to Massachusetts in the Atlantic 10 Tournament semifinal last year were largely directed at the referees, whom he felt favored the Minutemen, there was a definite message for one of his players amid the venom.

"There isn't anybody in the country who has played (UMass) center Marcus Camby better than Alexander Koul has," Jarvis said. "They can't play him. He showed that again tonight."

Were you listening, Alexander?

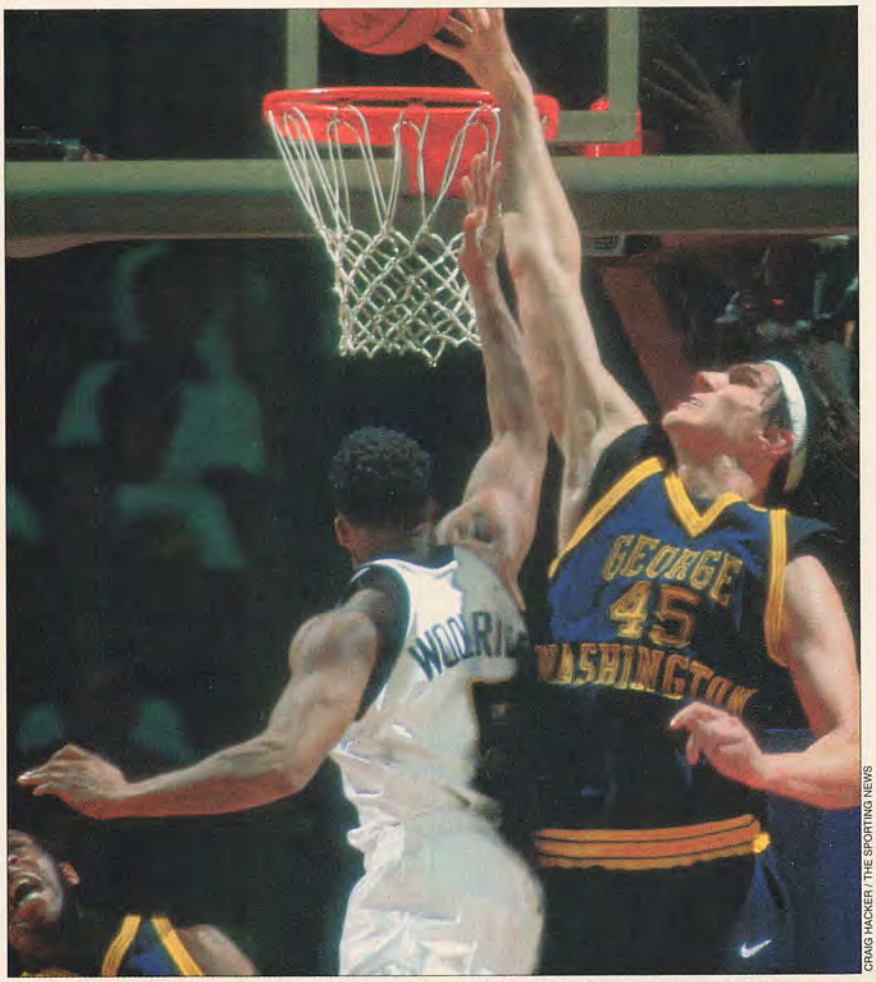
The Colonials' center scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds against Camby despite missing more than 10 minutes with first-half foul trouble. Koul was 8-of-13 from the field, blocked two shots and harried Camby into a 6-of-23 shooting performance. It was a valiant effort in a losing cause and one Jarvis expects to see nearly every night this season, no matter whom the Colonials play.

There were too many games last season when Koul, a hulking 7-1, 296-pounder from Belarus with a smooth stroke and a fluidity not normally found in basketball giants, would shrink into the background, content to let elder Colonials such as Vaughn Jones or Kwame Evans lead the way.

Yes, Koul (pronounced *Cool*) had been a powerhouse against the Minutemen, but he failed to hit double figures five times last year, and on four of those occasions, he scored only six points. Although Jarvis feels the referees played a big role in limiting Koul's effectiveness—"He'd have position, people would bounce off of him and he'd be penalized," Jarvis says—they weren't completely to blame. No official forced Koul to be so reticent. That was Koul's decision.

"He's the kind of person who would give half of his last sandwich to a teammate," Jarvis says. "He's a giver. That personality at times is a disadvantage. He has to understand that it's OK to be selfish. It's OK to dominate in big games and little games. He has to be selfish on the basketball court."

If Koul can overcome his egalitarian tendencies, he actually will help his teammates. At a time when college basketball is starved for centers, Koul has the tools of a bona fide star. He is big and mobile and has fine hands. Rather than get overwhelmed by emotion, he plays with a refreshing stoicism in today's self-promoting climate. One can't help watching the headbanded Koul and think of the giant "Chief," who made Jack Nicholson's Randall McMurphy character so happy with his play in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.



CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Koul's 296-pound bulk comes in handy around the basket—on defense as well as offense.

Jarvis took a close look at Koul when GW played an exhibition against the Belarus National Team before the 1993-94 season. Even though the Colonials had 7-1 Yinka Dare in the middle, Jarvis knew enough to think long term. He contacted Koul and some of his teammates after the game and asked if they would be interested in playing college basketball in America. They said yes, and after an arduous long-distance recruiting process that needed to overcome language, time-zone and cultural barriers, Koul and teammate Andrei Sviridov chose the Colonials over a handful of other Atlantic 10 schools, each of whom had played the Belarussians, too.

"A tremendous amount of time and effort goes into the recruitment of foreign players," says Jarvis, whose 1996-97 roster includes eight foreign-born players. "You have to be able to speak their language or find someone who does. You have to write to them in their language. It's difficult. It takes time. We did those little things with Alexander and Andrei, and we have continued to do them with other players. Others have given up in some cases because it's too much work."

Koul's arrival was perfectly timed. In the spring of '94, Dare was persuaded to turn pro—a disastrous decision for the sophomore whose game was extremely raw. Though Dare was drafted 14th overall by New Jersey and signed a lucrative contract, his development was retarded and he may never be a productive NBA player.

Koul filled the void perfectly. He averaged 12.8 points and 6.6 rebounds and shot an amazing 63.2 percent from the

at GW

Showing some selfishness, though, would make Alexander greater

field on the way to winning the Atlantic 10's Rookie of the Year award. By midseason, GW fans had forgotten Dare. Now, they hope Koul won't leave early. Although Jarvis intimates that referees' "victimization" of his big man might drive Koul to the NBA, the center sounds like he'll hang in for the duration. "I'd like to stay four years," Koul says.

Koul's relatively easy adjustment to America and college basketball may aid that decision. Several factors have contributed to the transition. One was the presence of Sviridov, whom Koul had known for nearly five years. Both left their hometowns (Koul was born in Vitebsk, Sviridov in Mogilev) as teenagers and went to Minsk, where they attended school and played basketball before coming to George Washington.

Sviridov's father, Niikolai, arranged to have most of the paperwork filled out. Though Andrei, himself 7-0, doesn't play much, he is a valuable member of the Colonials, if only for his companionship for Koul and his father's resourcefulness. Last year, two more members of the Belarus team on which Koul and Sviridov toured, Yegor Mescheriakov and Andrei Krivonos, joined the Colonials, completing a solid lifeline to Eastern Europe on which each player could rely.

"It makes everything a little bit easier," Koul says. "We've played together for a long time, and we know each other. We've gotten used to each other. Last year was very easy for me because three friends were over here."

Because Koul had spent five years in Minsk playing for various Belarus national teams, he wasn't homesick once he arrived at GW. "Minsk is pretty far from my hometown," he says. "We were very busy there with our games and studies, and we didn't have lots of chances to visit home. After the time we spent in Minsk, playing here is pretty easy for us."

Jarvis has tried to make Koul's on-court progression as smooth as his adjustment off it. Koul has averaged less than 30 minutes per game during his first two seasons, partly because of his propensity for accumulating fouls (he was disqualified from 11 games last year) and partly because of Jarvis' unwillingness to burden Koul with too much responsibility during his freshman and sophomore seasons.

" 'Sasha' (Koul's nickname) can run, and he can catch, and as he becomes more and more familiar with the game, you'll see more things," Jarvis says. "But he has to find a way of staying out of foul trouble."

Rival coaches welcome any help they can receive in getting Koul off the court, whether it is self-inflicted or referee-aided. Virginia Tech coach Bill Foster likens him to Ukrainian star Vitaly Potapenko, who was drafted 12th overall by Cleveland after starring at Wright State. "He has nice hands, good offensive skills, is tough and big," Foster says of Koul.

Koul's mass has impressed more than just Foster. "I had no idea he was going to be that big," Duquesne coach Scott Edgar says. "When he screens down and then opens up in the lane, he takes up the whole lane."

But Koul doesn't want to confine his play to the trenches. Like many European players, he likes to face the basket, and while his shooting range is limited to mostly dunks and short hook shots, Koul would like to develop a mid-range jump shot.

"Now that I feel more comfortable, I want to shoot a little farther away from the basket," Koul says. "I like to play both ways. It feels good to get the ball in the paint and score it, but it's lots of fun to play outside."

That kind of talk doesn't impress everybody. Temple coach John Chaney, who thinks big people belong close to the hoop, wishes Koul would be content as a classic pivotman—no matter how much damage that would do to Chaney's Owls.

"I'm just hoping his coaches will try to force him or convince him just how important it is for him to keep his ass in the barn," Chaney says. "He shouldn't be a jack of all trades. This kid has tremendous power, and he shows no emotion. He just plays. ... He could be one of the three best centers in the country."

That's not bad considering Koul has spent only two years here. ◆

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

'He has to understand that it's OK to be selfish. It's OK to dominate in big games and little games. He has to be selfish on the basketball court.'

—GW coach Mike Jarvis

CENTERS

Rk. Player, school	Cl.	Ht./wt.	FG%	FT%	Reb.	Blk.	PPG
1. Tim Duncan, Wake Forest	Sr.	6-10/248	55.5	68.7	12.3	3.8	19.1
2. Alexander Koul, Geo. Washington	Jr.	71/296	64.2	66.5	7.8	1.8	14.9
3. Kenny Thomas, New Mexico	Soph.	6-9/260	57.8	70.9	7.8	1.5	14.7
4. Zendon Hamilton, St. John's	Jr.	6-11/225	48.6	79.7	10.3	0.7	20.8
5. Marc Jackson, Temple	Jr.	6-10/270	47.7	66.8	9.0	0.2	15.7
6. Brian Skinner, Baylor	Jr.	6-10/245	60.1	62.0	9.3	3.0	17.6
7. Jason Lawson, Villanova	Sr.	6-11/240	62.1	69.3	6.8	3.0	12.3
8. Jelani McCoy, UCLA	Soph.	6-9/220	67.6	43.5	6.9	3.3	10.2
9. Tim Young, Stanford	Soph.	7-1/245	*50.0	69.2	8.6	1.5	12.3
10. Otis Hill, Syracuse	Sr.	6-8/255	57.1	68.1	5.4	0.8	12.7
11. Scot Pollard, Kansas	Sr.	6-10/250	56.4	63.6	7.4	2.5	10.1
12. Adonal Foyle, Colgate	Jr.	6-10/255	51.7	48.9	12.6	5.7	20.2
13. Peter Aluma, Liberty	Sr.	6-10/240	54.6	67.7	6.4	3.9	18.9
14. Shaun Igo, Rice	Sr.	6-11/220	50.9	72.9	8.8	1.4	16.0
15. Michael Doleac, Utah	Jr.	6-11/260	46.3	79.3	7.7	0.8	8.6
16. Damion Walker, TCU	Soph.	6-8/220	50.3	76.8	8.8	1.3	20.5
17. Pat Burke, Auburn	Sr.	6-11/250	48.1	64.9	8.7	1.4	11.0
18. Kelvin Cato, Iowa State	Sr.	6-11/245	50.3	64.0	7.7	2.6	9.6
19. Odell Hodge, Old Dominion	Sr.	6-9/265	56.7	63.4	7.5	1.6	14.3
20. Thaddeus Delaney, Coll. of Charleston	Sr.	6-8/250	54.5	59.2	11.4	1.7	14.6

**—Stats from 1994-95 season/injured last season*

Van Horn's decision to stay means Utes will go places

By Patrick Kinahan

A year from now, after he has parlayed an outstanding four-year career at the University of Utah into a lucrative pro contract, Keith Van Horn could become the poster boy for the NBA's "Stay in School" program.

He'll bring instant credibility, as he is a rare commodity who actually forgoes millions of dollars to finish out his college eligibility. Not only will Van Horn stay in school the full four years, he also will graduate on time.

"This speaks to what the best of college ball is all about," Utah coach Rick Majerus says. "Keith is the epitome of the student athlete."

Van Horn looked for a reason to leave after last season, seeking advice from a wide range of players, coaches and other NBA types. He listened, but didn't hear anything that could convince him to make the jump.

"They said the same thing to me: 'Get your education. Enjoy college life, because it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Even if you go back to college and get your degree, it's still not the same,' " Van Horn says.

All true, but a big-money NBA contract is an often-irresistible temptation. Still, Van Horn wasn't convinced. As Majerus and Utah Jazz officials Frank and Scott Layden told him: "If you're making a money decision, it's usually the wrong decision."

Van Horn, the two-time Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year, also had personal reasons for wanting to finish out his college eligibility. The father of a 1-year-old girl, Sabrina, Van Horn and the baby's mother, Amy Sida, were married in August. He did not want to subject his family to the rigors of NBA life, leaving their home in Salt Lake City to venture who knows where. By staying in school, he and his bride can establish their life together for a year, then go wherever the NBA takes them.

"If I did decide to go, it would have been a stressful summer for me," he says.

Then, there's a promise Van Horn made to his dad. Midway through his freshman year, Van Horn's father, Ken, died. While he was being recruited out of Diamond Bar, Calif., Van Horn told his father he would graduate from college. "If he were alive today, he would have been happy with my decision," Van Horn says.

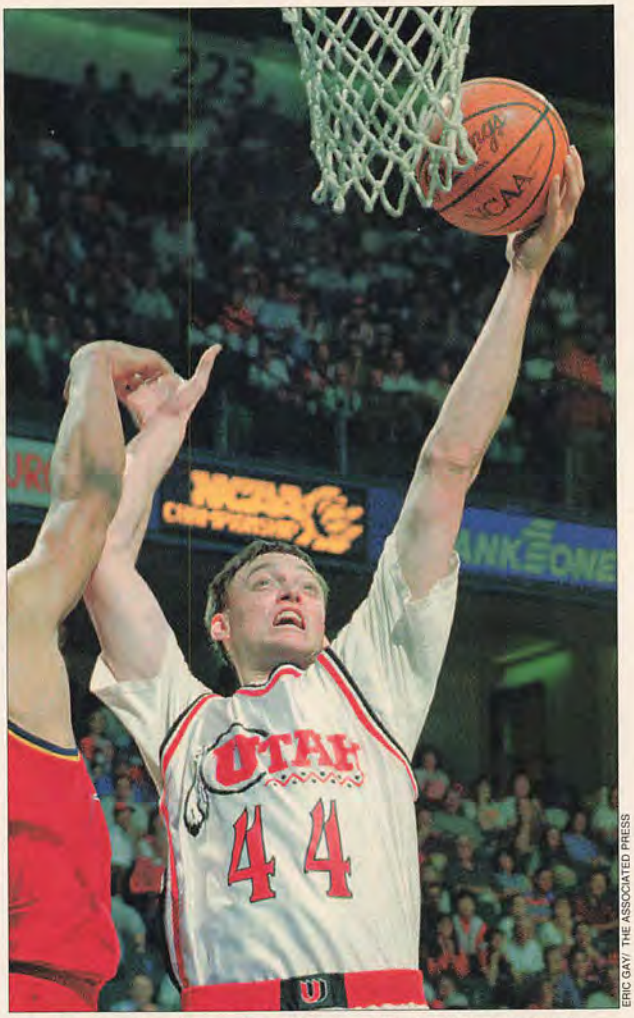
The strength of Utah's team also factored into Van Horn's choice. With four starters returning from a Sweet 16 team, the Utes are hoping for a Final Four appearance this season. Anything less than a Final Eight appearance might be disappointing for the Utes, who are No. 4 in The Sporting News poll.

The Utes have improved in each of Van Horn's three years, from 14-14 as a freshman to the NCAA second round to the Sweet 16. "This team is not going to be satisfied with just reaching the Sweet 16," says Van Horn, who will be a member of one of the best frontcourts in the nation.

Utah is one of three WAC teams in the Top 25. New Mexico and Fresno State also return the bulk of last year's teams. All five starters are back for New Mexico, which beat Utah for the WAC Tournament championship and won an NCAA Tournament game for the first time in 22 years. Fresno State has four starters back and will add three highly touted newcomers—guard Chris Herren, a transfer from Boston College, and forwards Terrance Roberson and Daymond Forney.

"It's a good time for WAC basketball," says New Mexico coach Dave Bliss, whose Lobos will battle Utah and WAC newcomer Tulsa in the Mountain Division. ◆

Patrick Kinahan covers Utah basketball for the Salt Lake Tribune.



ERIC GAY/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Van Horn considered a number of factors when deciding to return for his senior season at Utah, including a promise he made to his father.

POWER FORWARDS

Rk. Player, school	Cl.	Ht./wt.	FG%	FT%	Reb.	Blk.	PPG
1. Keith Van Horn, Utah	Sr.	6-9/238	53.8	85.1	8.8	0.8	21.4
2. Danny Fortson, Cincinnati	Jr.	6-7/260	53.8	75.3	9.6	0.4	20.1
3. Danya Abrams, Boston College	Sr.	6-7/265	47.1	70.5	9.6	0.7	19.6
4. Raef LaFrentz, Kansas	Jr.	6-11/220	54.3	66.1	8.2	0.8	13.4
5. Antawn Jamison, North Carolina	Soph.	6-8/216	62.4	52.6	9.7	1.0	15.1
6. J.R. Henderson, UCLA	Jr.	6-9/223	57.2	67.8	7.0	0.4	14.4
7. Maurice Taylor, Michigan	Jr.	6-9/250	51.1	59.2	6.9	0.8	14.0
8. Ace Custis, Virginia Tech	Sr.	6-7/217	50.7	67.3	9.5	1.0	13.5
9. Devin Davis, Miami (Ohio)	Sr.	6-7/215	48.7	61.7	10.0	0.4	18.0
10. Austin Croshere, Providence	Sr.	6-9/225	42.1	85.2	5.8	0.9	15.3
11. Tunji Awojobi, Boston U.	Sr.	6-7/230	58.2	70.6	10.8	2.0	22.7
12. Jess Settles, Iowa	Sr.	6-7/220	47.7	74.1	7.5	0.3	15.1
13. Derek Hood, Arkansas	Soph.	6-8/210	47.3	43.9	6.1	0.7	7.5
14. Winfred Walton, Syracuse	Fr.	6-9/235	—	—	—	—	—
15. Mark Sanford, Washington	Jr.	6-8/200	46.0	65.2	6.1	0.8	16.5
16. Bubba Wells, Austin Peay	Sr.	6-5/225	54.9	74.9	7.3	1.5	26.3
17. Joe Bunn, Old Dominion	Jr.	6-6/220	54.9	76.3	7.6	0.1	16.1
18. Terquin Mott, Coppin State	Sr.	6-8/220	63.8	63.2	7.4	1.0	19.0
19. Kirk King, Connecticut	Sr.	6-8/235	57.5	68.9	6.3	1.6	9.9
20. DeMarco Johnson, UNC Charlotte	Jr.	6-8/235	49.9	66.5	8.8	0.6	18.1

Recruiting afterthought now at forefront for Georgia Tech

By Ray Glier

It was the day before Matt Harpring was going to sign his national letter-of-intent to play football at Northwestern. It was a big event for the 6-7 high school quarterback from Marist Prep in Atlanta, who was following the family path. His father played football at Michigan, his grandfather played at Navy and his uncle played at Notre Dame.

Then, at the last minute, Harpring decided to detour. Basketball was what he really wanted. He called Northwestern and said, "No, thank you." He had suddenly gone from football prospect to basketball suspect.

"It was risky," Harpring says. "It didn't look like a smart thing to do, but that's what I did. I didn't have a basketball scholarship. I averaged 26 points for a team that went 32-0 my senior year, so I knew I could play. I was white and I was from a small school and most people thought I was going to play football. I guess that's why some people didn't look at me for basketball.

"We had to recruit people to come to our school to see me play. There were some Division II schools that were interested, but I wanted to play Division I. I started sending out tapes to schools."

One school Harping didn't have to send a tape to was Georgia Tech. The son of Tech coach Bobby Cremins played with Harpring at Marist and Cremins attended a number of games. A lot of good that did Harpring. "I wanted to go to Tech, but I could tell Coach Cremins didn't think I could play," Harpring says. "He didn't pay any attention to me."

That was almost two years ago. Ask Cremins now if Harpring can play and he rolls his eyes. He knows one almost got away.

Harpring, a junior, was a first-team All-ACC performer last season as a sophomore. He averaged 18.6 points and shot 51 percent from the field. What's more, he was feared by rival coaches for his offensive rebounding. Only North Carolina's Antawn Jamison (119) had more offensive boards than Harpring (107), who averaged 8.1 total rebounds.

More important, Harpring helped turn around a sagging program at Tech, which had missed the NCAA Tournament two consecutive seasons. With the emergence of Harpring and the play of freshman point guard Stephon Marbury, the Yellow Jackets rebounded to go 24-12 last season and advanced to the Sweet 16. They also had the best regular-season record in the ACC (13-3).

"I don't think anyone, including ourselves, could have seen this coming," Tech assistant coach Kevin Cantwell says. "His game is unique for a standout player. There is nothing flashy about it."

Cantwell had to convince Cremins to take a look at Harpring and his conventional, non-theatrical game. But Cremins, and many other Division I coaches, only shrugged when they watched Harpring. "All I wanted Coach Cremins to say was, 'You've got a chance to start your freshman year,' " Harpring says. "He kept trying to steer me to Davidson. Then he said, 'You know, you should probably play (basketball) at Northwestern.'

"It took him to my final game to decide to give me a scholarship. He told me I had a chance to start my first year, but I could tell in the back of his mind he didn't really mean it. But that's what I wanted to hear."

Cremins offered the scholarship and Harpring did the rest. In 1994-95, he alternated starts at forward with fellow freshman Michael Maddox for the first 12 games of the season. Maddox had been the more coveted recruit and many thought he would take over the position by Christmas.

"After Christmas last year, there were no bones about it. He had to start," Cantwell says of Harpring.

"He is as versatile a player as we have in the conference," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski says.

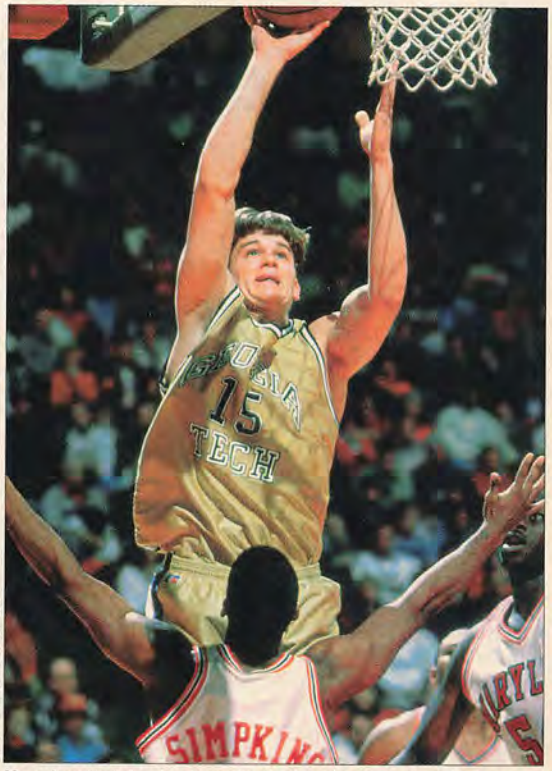
The only thing Harpring can't do on the court is look spectacular. Perhaps that's why his game doesn't draw more attention. Indeed, there are subtle elements to his play, like finding the open spot for the jumper or putting himself in position for an offensive rebound. Once positioned inside, he is not easily moved. Former teammate Drew Barry called him "Roids," as in steroids, because of his strength.

"People don't realize how strong he is," Cantwell says. "If people hammer him, he doesn't move. That's why he doesn't get many fouls called on him. He doesn't have to push back to get position; they're the ones pushing him."

No one has to push Harpring as a legitimate basketball player any more. The ACC—and Cremins —are well aware of his varied skills by now.

"I think that period where I have to prove myself to Coach Cremins is over with," Harpring says with a smile. ◆

Ray Glier is a free-lance writer based in Atlanta.



DOUG PENSINGER / ALLSPORT

Harpring disdained college football for basketball at the last minute. He calls it a 'risky' decision, but he has made it pay off.

SMALL FORWARD

Rk. Player, school	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	Reb.	PPG
1. Ron Mercer, Kentucky	Soph.	6-7/208	45.7	78.5	33.8	2.9	8.0
2. Matt Harpring, Georgia Tech	Jr.	6-7/226	51.0	76.2	42.9	8.1	18.6
3. Charles O'Bannon, UCLA	Sr.	6-5/209	52.7	76.7	37.1	6.0	14.3
4. Carlos Williams, UAB	Sr.	6-7/190	42.5	70.9	32.5	8.4	20.2
5. Jerald Honeycutt, Tulane	Sr.	6-9/245	40.2	64.0	29.2	7.2	18.0
6. Keith Booth, Maryland	Sr.	6-6/210	44.2	75.7	20.6	7.8	15.3
7. Greg Buckner, Clemson	Jr.	6-4/200	47.2	67.2	40.0	5.1	13.1
8. Paul Pierce, Kansas	Soph.	6-6/220	41.9	60.6	30.4	5.3	11.9
9. Ricky Price, Duke	Jr.	6-5/185	43.9	71.1	39.3	3.5	14.2
10. Todd Burgan, Syracuse	Jr.	6-7/225	42.1	62.3	34.0	6.8	12.1
11. Bonzi Wells, Ball State	Jr.	6-5/210	49.6	70.8	33.7	8.4	25.2
12. Eric Washington, Alabama	Sr.	6-4/185	42.6	79.0	40.5	6.9	18.6
13. Olivier Saint-Jean, San Jose State	Jr.	6-6/225	44.6	74.1	27.7	6.3	17.2
14. Sam Okey, Wisconsin	Soph.	6-7/240	44.0	70.4	29.2	6.8	13.2
15. Tim Thomas, Villanova	Fr.	6-9/235	—	—	—	—	—
16. Damian Owens, West Virginia	Jr.	6-6/210	51.3	58.6	29.8	8.3	14.6
17. Horatio Webster, Mississippi State	Jr.	6-7/235		Junior college transfer			
18. Johnny Taylor, UT Chattanooga	Sr.	6-8/215	51.0	73.2	38.2	7.1	18.2
19. Kenya Capers, Houston	Sr.	6-5/200	50.2	64.6	29.3	4.8	14.2
20. Rashaan Palmer, St. Bonaventure	Jr.	6-5/200	46.5	66.1	22.7	5.4	16.2

Work ethic is guiding Long Beach's James Cotton

By Jason Reid

The criticisms are harsh, unwarranted and flat out wrong.

But James Cotton has the right to think what he wants about himself.

Cotton is unmerciful in his self-evaluations, unforgiving about his self-perceived deficiencies. He speaks at length of his shortcomings, but only reluctantly acknowledges his attributes. He beats himself up mentally, pushes himself relentlessly.

Silly? Well, his approach has worked so far. Cotton, a 6-5 junior guard at Long Beach State, is the Big West Conference's brightest star and a tireless worker. Coaches say he has the total package. Cotton, of course, doesn't agree.

"I don't think I've accomplished anything yet," Cotton says. "I haven't done anything to get excited about. I guess I'm just real hard on myself."

Cotton's perspective is a minority view. Anyone who has watched the smooth shooter disagrees.

Cotton being Cotton is a big reason Long Beach State won the Big West Conference regular-season championship last season, its first since the 1976-77 season.

"Cotton is a great offensive player," Nevada coach Pat Foster says. "If he's not the best offensive player in the conference, he's certainly in the top three. No doubt about it.

"He's got that star feature or quality about him. Whatever you want to call it, it can take him to whatever level he wants to go."

Last season, Cotton averaged 19.5 points and led the Big West in scoring. He is the first 49er to win a scoring title since 1978-79. Cotton is one of three returning starters for the 49ers this season. Cotton, expected to team with Houston transfer Tommie Davis in the backcourt, should help ease the transition for new coach Wayne Morgan, a former Syracuse assistant who took over after Seth Greenberg left for the coaching job at South Florida.

"He's an intelligent leader," UC Santa Barbara coach Jerry Pimm says of Cotton. "He has the skills to make it (in the NBA)."

Cotton was the Big West freshman of the year in 1993-94, averaging 11.4 points. That set the stage.

"For a guy who was supposed to have redshirted, he was an integral part of what they were doing," UC Irvine coach Rod Baker says. "From the beginning of the year until the end, he improved every night."

In an exhibition before his sophomore season, Cotton suffered a severely sprained left ankle that forced him to redshirt during the 1994-95 season. But he used his time wisely, working daily on every facet of his game. "It was a blessing in disguise," he says. "I matured so much."

Whatever Cotton learns, he teaches his younger brother, Schea. A senior swingman at St. John Bosco High in Bellflower, Calif., Schea is among the top prizes of this season's recruiting class. "We're real close," Schea says. "He helps me out a lot. The things that I'm about to go through, he's already been through."

James wasn't as highly recruited as Schea is likely to be. Every major college recruiter with a pulse has known about Schea since he was an eighth-grader, and a national magazine wrote a profile on Schea *before* his sophomore year.

Having a more renowned younger brother might be difficult for some, but James seems genuinely happy for Schea. "We both have our own identities," James says. "It's not like he's living off of me or I'm living off of him. We're two totally different players.

"Things I have to go out and work on for hours, he picks up instantly. He's so naturally gifted."

Says Gaynell Cotton, their mother: "They're happy for the accolades the other receives."

The Cottons didn't play together in high school, but Schea has orally committed to Long Beach State. "I try not to think about it, but I think about it," James says. "I smile when I think about how good it could be."

But don't expect Cotton to mellow even if his brother joins him next season. Only perfection can make Cotton relax.

"I don't want to be mentioned with the best—I want to be the best," Cotton says. "I'm not there yet, but I'm working on it." ◆

Jason Reid is a sportswriter for the Los Angeles Times.

DAN HANKIN / LONG BEACH STATE

Cotton is a big scorer but also earns plaudits for his defense from opposing coaches.

SHOOTING GUARD

Rk. Player, school	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	Asst.	PPG
1. Anthony Parker, Bradley	Sr.	6-6/210	47.2	79.7	42.2	3.5	18.9
2. Shea Seals, Tulsa	Sr.	6-5/210	37.9	65.2	29.4	2.2	17.1
3. Toby Bailey, UCLA	Jr.	6-5/205	45.8	64.4	39.5	3.2	14.8
4. Cory Carr, Texas Tech	Sr.	6-4/200	44.0	76.1	39.1	1.5	16.1
5. Dedric Willoughby, Iowa State	Sr.	6-3/180	41.5	79.3	33.7	2.5	20.5
6. Isaac Fontaine, Washington State	Sr.	6-3/215	46.2	82.2	48.5	2.7	18.1
7. James Cotton, Long Beach State	Jr.	6-5/200	43.3	78.2	39.8	1.7	19.5
8. Reggie Freeman, Texas	Jr.	6-6/200	37.6	73.2	32.2	3.9	22.4
9. Derek Anderson, Kentucky	Sr.	6-4/195	50.9	78.4	39.0	2.4	9.4
10. Miles Simon, Arizona	Jr.	6-5/199	44.6	76.4	32.4	4.1	13.2
11. James Collins, Florida State	Sr.	6-4/190	41.7	67.5	34.7	3.2	18.3
12. Charles Smith, New Mexico	Sr.	6-4/185	46.0	81.1	36.7	3.1	19.5
13. Larry Davis, South Carolina	Sr.	6-3/194	45.0	77.4	35.5	1.8	18.0
14. Bobby Jackson, Minnesota	Sr.	6-1/195	40.6	78.7	29.5	2.7	13.3
15. Darnell Burton, Cincinnati	Sr.	6-2/201	44.3	67.1	41.4	1.9	14.0
16. Carmelo Travieso, UMass	Sr.	6-2/180	42.6	63.6	40.3	2.2	12.6
17. Felipe Lopez, St. John's	Jr.	6-6/190	40.6	68.3	26.0	1.9	16.2
18. Victor Page, Georgetown	Soph.	6-3/205	40.4	66.7	33.3	1.7	12.5
19. Malik Dixon, Ark.-Little Rock	Sr.	6-1/175	44.4	82.4	41.9	2.5	17.8
20. Vincent Rainey, Murray State	Sr.	6-4/205	47.1	74.1	36.9	2.1	19.4

Marquette's 'Little General' plays big role

By Michael Bauman

As he is 5-10 and 170, it isn't surprising that the nicknames for Marquette guard Aaron Hutchins revolve around his size. He is "Little Hutch" or "Little General"—always something with a description of small attached to it.

But on the floor, Hutchins seems to grow. He may be small in stature, but Hutchins has been the single biggest part of the Golden Eagles' success the past two seasons.

The 1996-97 season will be no different for Hutchins and Marquette. He is the heart and soul of the team, and with center Amal McCaskill and small forward Roney Eford gone off last season's team, even more of the leadership burden will fall on Hutchins. His record says he'll be able to handle it.

As a point guard, Hutchins offers the best of both worlds. He can create shots for his teammates or for himself. He has tremendous quickness, great court sense and a total lack of fear. He isn't afraid to take the big shots at crucial moments.

"Down the stretch, I want the ball," he says. Down the stretch, it is a reasonable strategy.

"Hutchins is a guy who should be taking the last shot," Marquette coach Mike Deane says. "The guy's got tremendous confidence in himself, and he's proved that he's got a knack of making big plays."

But it didn't happen easily or overnight for Hutchins at Marquette. He went to Milwaukee after being named Ohio's Mr. Basketball in his senior season at Lima Central Catholic, the first Division III (small school) player to receive that honor. But he spent most of his freshman season in college languishing deep on the bench. Marquette had Tony Miller, the school's career assist leader, at point guard, leaving no room for Hutchins. And the coaching staff had concerns about his maturity.

"It was very tough, and I was thinking of transferring, as most freshmen do," says Hutchins, who was recruited to Marquette by former coach Kevin O'Neill but stayed on when Deane took over. "I was Mr. Basketball in Ohio, and then coming in and getting only a few minutes a game was very hard."

But as the 1994-95 regular season wound down—and the team's other perimeter players were shooting erratically from the field—Deane began to insert Hutchins at shooting guard. The youngster responded by averaging 17.2 points in Marquette's last five games, all in the NIT.

"I didn't expect to play that much," Hutchins says. "But after I came in and hit the first three shots (against Auburn in the first round), I'm like, 'Somebody's in trouble.' " The Golden Eagles, with Hutchins bailing them out game after game with big shots, finished second in tournament, losing 65-64 in overtime to Virginia Tech in the final. Hutchins was chosen to the NIT All-Tournament Team.

Last season, the question for Marquette was whether Hutchins, as a sophomore, could step in for Miller, a four-year starter, at point guard. He could. Hutchins led the new-but-rigorous Conference USA in assists with 6.9 per game (10th in the nation), and he also led Marquette in scoring with 14.0 points per game. And he took the Eagles on another late-season run that produced victories over three ranked teams—Louisville, Cincinnati and Memphis—in 10 days. Marquette eventually advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before being upset by Arkansas.

Along the way, Hutchins earned rave reviews from the competition.

Saint Louis coach Charlie Spoonhour: "That little guard adds a nice dimension because he can shoot the ball. He not only handles it well, but he can shoot it, and it breaks your defense down off the dribble."

Cincinnati coach Bob Huggins: "Hutchins has come miles. He's very, very good. He can handle any kind of trap. He does a great job."

More important to Hutchins, he also won the enthusiastic endorsement of his coach.

RUDY WINSTON FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

Hutchins stepped into the limelight as a freshman because of his offense in the NIT. Last season, he became acclimated at point guard.

"In terms of anything specific in basketball, there was never any doubts about the gifts he possessed," Deane says. "But just the way he's matured is really nice to see. I'm just pleased with his personal growth."

Hutchins doesn't worry about increased responsibility. "I can play as many minutes as they want me to play," he says. And there is no reason to doubt him. He is still Little Hutch, but, in many ways, he's still growing. ◆

Michael Bauman is a columnist for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

POINT GUARD

Rk.	Player, school	Cl.	Ht./Wt.	FG%	FT%	3PT%	Asst.	PPG
1.	Jacque Vaughn, Kansas	Sr.	6-1/195	48.2	69.5	42.4	6.6	10.9
2.	Brevin Knight, Stanford	Sr.	5-10/173	43.3	84.8	29.5	7.3	15.5
3.	DeJuan Wheat, Louisville	Sr.	6-0/165	45.1	73.1	35.1	3.9	17.7
4.	Aaron Hutchins, Marquette	Jr.	5-10/170	37.5	84.9	37.0	6.9	14.0
5.	Chauncey Billups, Colorado	Soph.	6-3/191	41.3	86.1	35.4	5.5	17.9
6.	Dominick Young, Fresno State	Sr.	5-10/170	40.7	71.8	38.0	6.6	18.2
7.	Kiwane Garris, Illinois	Sr.	6-2/183	37.3	86.2	32.5	3.9	15.4
8.	Earl Boykins, Eastern Michigan	Jr.	5-7/140	43.2	80.9	30.7	6.1	15.4
9.	Edgar Padilla, UMass	Sr.	6-2/175	41.6	70.8	34.2	6.7	8.9
10.	Andre Woolridge, Iowa	Sr.	6-1/190	46.9	73.5	34.9	6.0	13.0
11.	Kareem Reid, Arkansas	Soph.	5-10/165	39.5	68.6	25.9	6.6	12.9
12.	Scoonie Penn, Boston College	Soph.	5-10/175	43.8	75.5	31.4	3.5	13.2
13.	Harold Deane, Virginia	Sr.	6-2/175	34.4	80.8	34.4	3.7	16.7
14.	Ricky Moore, UConn	Soph.	6-2/185	50.0	52.0	29.4	3.0	4.7
15.	Alvin Williams, Villanova	Sr.	6-5/180	45.4	71.0	34.7	5.4	11.0
16.	Wes Flanigan, Auburn	Sr.	6-1/180	42.0	70.2	26.8	6.7	13.4
17.	Melvin Watson, South Carolina	Jr.	6-2/190	45.0	74.0	33.7	4.0	12.2
18.	Tyson Wheeler, Rhode Island	Jr.	5-10/155	40.6	74.7	37.1	6.0	16.5
19.	Mike Bibby, Arizona	Fr.	6-2/180	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Jeremy Veal, Arizona State	Jr.	6-3/182	43.9	81.9	36.3	3.8	18.9

Tall Timber on the Plains

Jayhawks must be birds of prey on backboards to silence critics

By Blair Kerkhoff

They haven't gone in for tattoos or earrings, at least none that can be seen. As for dyed hair, center Scot Pollard has been known to occasionally wash in a honey-yellow hue just to let you know he's one funky Mormon.

But if a little hair coloring helps improve a team's aggressiveness on the boards, maybe the Kansas frontcourt should consider consulting Dennis Rodman's cosmetologist. After all, the missing link in an otherwise mega-talented Jayhawks' front line is a vicious attitude toward rebounding.

"One conclusion we drew from last season is we needed to be tougher on the boards," junior forward Raef LaFrentz says. "We've heard that we're not tough enough, and at times people who say that are right. It's the knock against us, and we have to take that as a challenge."

It's not as if the Jayhawks were bad rebounders in a 29-5 season that ended with a three-point loss to Syracuse in the West Regional final last spring. Kansas averaged 42.5 boards, almost six more than foes.

Besides, rebounding wasn't the big problem in the loss to Syracuse. The Jayhawks couldn't hit the broad side of a western Kansas barn, connecting on only 4-of-25 3-point attempts.

But the Jayhawks were mediocre shooters for most of the season. It wasn't until their rebounding broke down toward the end of the campaign that they started struggling. Kansas was outrebounded through a five-game stretch—including three games in the Big Eight Tournament—and lost two of those contests. The Jayhawks' first-round NCAA Tournament opponent, South Carolina State, watched film of those games and declared Kansas "big, slow and beatable."

Of course, it didn't happen. Kansas' 38-point triumph was its largest in NCAA Tournament history, and the Jayhawks outrebounded the Bulldogs. But South Carolina State had a point. The Bulldogs had seen Kansas' loss to Iowa State in the Big Eight Tournament final and marveled at 6-5 Cyclones forward Kenny Pratt constantly beating 6-10 Pollard, 6-11 LaFrentz, 6-9 T.J. Pugh, 6-8 B.J. Williams and 6-6 Paul Pierce to rebounds. Pratt finished with a game-high 11 boards.

Pratt wasn't the only smallish forward to embarrass Kansas last season. Oklahoma steamroller Ernie Abercrombie, listed at 6-4, claimed 12 rebounds in the Sooners' regular-season victory over Kansas, a game in which LaFrentz and Pierce each had one.

Kansas groped for answers, but the simple conclusion was height doesn't always win the rebounding battles. Two years ago, the Jayhawks had their tallest team ever with 7-2 center Greg Ostertag, but they also suffered many of the same problems as last season.

The Jayhawks, especially Pollard, LaFrentz and Williams, are good athletes who run the floor well. But getting rebounding position sometimes was a problem, as was quickness around the basket.

"To me, it's all a mental thing," Williams says. "Day in, day out, we proved ourselves in the frontcourt. I think we got to a point near the end of the season when we got a little tired and maybe we relaxed a little, especially against Iowa State. We had beaten them twice during the regular season.

"Rebounding is all heart and desire; it's how badly you want the ball. There were times when we could have been better at it."

That is the frontcourt mission for this season. With every center and power forward returning, plus the addition of 7-foot redshirt sophomore Travis Williams, it isn't likely anybody's minutes will increase, so the rebounding intensity will have to be pumped up.

Probably the team's most aggressive rebounder was shooting guard Jerod Haase, who averaged 3.6, but the frontcourt also distinguished itself. As a sophomore, LaFrentz lived up to the promise of his mega-recruit status by leading the Jayhawks in rebounding (8.2) and scoring (13.4) while logging 12 double-doubles and occasionally dominating action. LaFrentz's 10-foot baseline jumper was about as sure a thing as there was in the Kansas offense last season, when he became the first Jayhawks frontcourt player to make All-Big Eight since Mark Randall in 1990-91. But LaFrentz's year ended miserably. In the Jayhawks' third and fourth NCAA tourney games, he scored a combined seven points. He was held to a career-low one point against Arizona and followed with a six-point disaster against Syracuse.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

LaFrentz and his Kansas teammates run the floor well but need to improve their rebounding position.

Still, LaFrentz had a good sophomore season, one made more enjoyable when his parents, Ron and Ellen, moved to Lawrence. After winterizing their Monona, Iowa, home, Raef's parents subleased the condominium of former Kansas guard Rex Walters, who was playing for the Philadelphia 76ers. Logging the time with the family in the winter allowed Raef—the name comes from the 1960 movie *Home from the Hill*, starring George Peppard—to remain in Lawrence over the summer and immerse himself in the school's weight program.

Pollard became a starter for the first time as a junior, which said more about his attitude as a team player than his ability. He was set to crack the starting lineup as a sophomore but Kansas coach Roy Williams instead went with LaFrentz, who has started all 65 games of his KU career. Pollard didn't gripe and ended up averaging more minutes than Ostertag, the starting center.

But as a starter, Pollard's numbers didn't shoot up and fouls were a problem, as Pollard fouled out of three games and finished 12 others with four personals. It was a delicate balance for Pollard, who emerged as one of the conference's premier shot blockers en route to earning second-team All-Big Eight honors. He finished with 84 rejections, third-most in a season by a Kansas player, while trying not to be careless.

"He didn't pick up many of his fouls on

blocks," coach Roy Williams says. "He's one of those guys who can block the shot of the guy he's guarding without fouling. A lot of guys block shots when they come and help out."

B.J. Williams bundled all of his improvement and promise into one game. In Kansas' 83-80 Sweet 16 triumph over Arizona, Williams kept the Jayhawks close throughout the first half and led a second-half rally. He finished with 18 points, by far a career best, and a season-high nine rebounds.

"If I'm ever going to make any money at this, there has to be a lot more games like that this season," Williams says. Money is important to Williams, who was married before last season and has two children.

Before the Arizona breakout, Williams was the ideal role player. But he was the target of criticism by Roy Williams for his off-season work habits, and when B.J. Williams opened the season by shooting a combined 2-of-16 in his first four games, he lost playing time. But after that, Williams shot better than 50 percent. He's the Jayhawks' quickest leaper and gets first call on high lobs from point guard Jacque Vaughn. It's likely Williams will join a small circle of Kansas seniors who will not have started in their careers, but there won't be many more valuable frontcourt reserves in the Big 12.

Pierce became the Jayhawks' third blue-chip prospect in three years last season, following Vaughn in 1993 and LaFrentz in 1994. And like Vaughn and LaFrentz, Pierce had trouble adjusting to Kansas' style. He came advertised as a versatile small forward, just as deadly from the perimeter as the post. After a shaky start, Pierce warmed up. He scored 24 at San Diego, the most by a Kansas freshman under Roy Williams, then topped that a month later with 30 against East Tennessee State. Perhaps Pierce's best game came at Nebraska, when he poured in 25, including a 5-of-7 effort from 3-point range, to help Williams notch his 200th career victory.

Pierce was named Big Eight co-Freshman of the Year with Colorado's Chauncey Billups. He's the all-around athlete Williams hasn't had at small forward. But to reach the all-conference level Vaughn and LaFrentz attained as sophomores, Pierce must improve his shooting—41.9 percent from the floor (30.4 on 3-pointers) and 60.6 from the line.

Pugh seemed to make the adjustment to college quicker than Pierce, even though he was playing out of position at center as a freshman. Pugh was averaging 5.7 points after 11 games, but managed only 2.4 after that. A solid outside shooter for a big man, Pugh will see more minutes at forward as the Jayhawks attempt to develop Travis Williams.

A player who could help immediately is Nicky Bradford, the Jayhawks' only freshman. Bradford, the Arkansas Player of the Year from Fayetteville, is a 6-5 swingman who probably will get most of his minutes backing up Pierce. He has been compared to former Kansas standout Steve Woodberry, the most versatile player Roy Williams has coached. If rebounding desire is part of Bradford's calling card, he'll be well worth the investment for the Jayhawks. ◆

Blair Kerkhoff covers Kansas and the Big 12 for the Kansas City Star.

Unit Rankings/Frontcourt

(Projected starters in bold)

1. **UCLA** (**J.R. Henderson**, Rico Hines, Kris Johnson, **Jelani McCoy**, Bob Myers, **Charles O'Bannon**). A tremendously athletic group. Henderson isn't flashy but has all the skills. McCoy may be the best shot blocker in college basketball. O'Bannon wouldn't mind a senior season like his brother's. One problem: A lack of depth.

2. **Cincinnati** (Bobby Brannen, **Danny Fortson**, **Jackson Julson**, Kenyon Martin, Rodrick Monroe, **Ruben Patterson**, Jermaine Thomas). There are some seriously big dudes on this front line. Depth is tremendous, and the returnees know their roles. The key is how well JC transfers Patterson and Thomas (if he's eligible) adapt. Fortson should have a monster season.

3. **Kansas** (Nicky Bradford, **Raef LaFrentz**, **Paul Pierce**, **Scot Pollard**, T.J. Pugh, B.J. Williams, Travis Williams). A pretty darned mobile group that must get tougher on the boards. Expect Pierce, a sophomore, to become more of an offensive force this season. LaFrentz has all the skills. Bradford is a freshman swingman.

4. **North Carolina** (**Vince Carter**, Vassil Evtimov, **Antawn Jamison**, Makhtar Ndiaye, Ademola Okulaja, **Serge Zwikker**). A glut of power guys—Jamison, Ndiaye, Evtimov and Zwikker—and only one true wing player (Carter, who also will play off-guard). Still, this is a good group that will have to carry the Heels, as the backcourt may take time to develop.

5. **Wake Forest** (**Sean Allen**, **Tim Duncan**, Steven Goolsby, **Ricky Peral**, Billy Stringfellow, Rodney West, Loren Woods). Duncan, obviously, is the man. Peral, a senior, needs to develop some toughness, but he is a tremendous shooter. Woods is a touted 7-1 freshman who likely will get some key minutes. Goolsby is a swingman who will play a lot with the graduation of Rusty LaRue.

6. **Michigan** (**Maceo Baston**, **Maurice Taylor**, Robert Traylor, Jerod Ward, **Albert White**). Loads of potential, but these guys really haven't put it together. If JC transfer Brandun Hughes can hack it at point guard, this group would be immeasurably improved. Ward, a junior, has been one of the biggest recruiting busts of the '90s.

7. **Villanova** (Malik Allen, Rafal Bigus, T.J. Caouette, **Chuck Kornegay**, **Jason Lawson**, Zeffy Penn, **Tim Thomas**). Tons of talent—but can coach Steve Lappas keep everybody happy? Kornegay and Lawson are seniors, but both continue to battle inconsistency. Thomas, Allen and Caouette are freshmen. If Thomas is as good as the "experts" say, he could be gone after this season.

8. **Duke** (Chris Carrawell, Mike Chappell, **Taymon Domzalski**, Roshown McLeod, **Greg Newton**, Nate James, **Ricky Price**, Carmen Wallace). Three freshmen (Carrawell, Chappell, James) and a transfer (McLeod, from St. John's) add a lot of athleticism to this group. Domzalski needs to become a bit more offensive-minded. Price could have a breakthrough season—if he gets the ball enough. Then again, time could be tight at small forward, with Price, James, Wallace, Carrawell and even Chappell probably best suited for that spot.

9. **Syracuse** (**Todd Burgan**, Jason Cipolla, **Otis Hill**, LeSean Howard, Dedreck Thomas, **Winfred Walton**). The starters will be tremendous, but depth could be a problem. Watch for Burgan to really take over on offense. Walton, a freshman, is a power forward in the Derrick Coleman/John Wallace mold. Cipolla will start at off-guard but will play some small forward.

10. **Utah** (Will Carlton, **Michael Doleac**, Drew Hansen, Jeff Johnsen, **Ashante Johnson**, Hanno Mohola, **Keith Van Horn**). Van Horn soon will be a rich man; he has all the skills. Doleac is a superb rebounder who will only keep improving. The one weakness: The Utes lack quickness. Johnson is a sophomore who missed last season because of Prop 48; he's likely to start at small forward.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

With the veteran Hill among his team's chief operatives, there will be little excuse if 'Cuse fails to dominate up front.

TEN OTHER FORMIDABLE FRONTCOURTS—FLORIDA STATE (Ron Hale, **Randell Jackson**, Corey Louis, **Kirk Luchman**, Ronald Thompson, Gentry Sparks); **GEORGIA TECH** (Jon Babul, **Eddie Elisma**, **Matt Harpring**, **Michael Maddox**, Pablo Machado); **INDIANA** (**Jason Collier**, Robbie Eggers, **Charlie Miller**, Haris Mujezinovic, **Andrae Patterson**); **IOWA STATE** (**Shawn Bankhead**, **Kelvin Cato**, Klay Edwards, Brad Johnson, Stevie Johnson, **Kenny Pratt**); **KENTUCKY** (Allen Edwards, **Jamaal Magloire**, **Ron Mercer**, Nazr Mohammed, **Jared Prickett**, Oliver Simmons); **MINNESOTA** (**Sam Jacobson**, **Courtney James**, Quincy Lewis, Kevin Loge, Kyle Sanden, Miles Tarver, **John Thomas**, Trevor Winter); **NEW MEXICO** (Ben Baum, Chris Paddock, Daniel Santiago, **Greg Schornstein**, **Clayton Shields**, **Kenny Thomas**); **PROVIDENCE** (Abdul Brown, **Derrick Brown**, Llewellyn Cole, **Austin Croshere**, **Ruben Garces**, Jamel Thomas); **TEMPLE** (**Lamont Barnes**, Julian Dunkley, Huey Futch, **Marc Jackson**, **Lynard Stewart**); **WEST VIRGINIA** (Marcus Goree, Brian Lewin, **Gordon Malone**, **Damian Owens**, Marvin Rodgers, Brent Solheim, **Sandro Varejao**).

EIGHT UNDERRATED FRONTCOURTS—BOSTON UNIVERSITY (**Tunji Awojobi**, **Jean Avebe**, **Joey Beard**, Yusef Delayefiitte, Ken Michin); **COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON** (**Rodney Conner**, **Thaddeous Delaney**, Kevin Glover, **Stacy Harris**, Marc Himes, Sedric Webber); **COPPIN STATE** (**Julian King**, Kareem Lewis, **Terquin Mott**, Dorian Pena, Rafi Reavis, **Reggie Welch**); **ILLINOIS STATE** (Rob Gibbons, **Rico Hill**, Ben Holmstrom, **Dan Muller**, Kenneth Pierson, Ronald vanVelzen, **LeRoy Watkins**); **MARSHALL** (**John Brannen**, **John Brown**, Vince Carafelli, **Carlton King**, Von Dale Morton, Josh Pray, Derrick Wright); **RICE** (T.J. Armstrong, Alex Bougaieff, **Jesse Cravens**, **Shaun Igo**, Robert Johnson, **Jarvis Sanni**); **OLD DOMINION** (Reggie Bassette, Cal Bowdler, **Joe Bunn**, **Odell Hodge**, **Mark Poag**, Skipper Youngblood); **WASHINGTON** (Dan Claridge, Thalo Green, **Jason Hartman**, **Todd MacCulloch**, **Mark Sanford**).

PENN STATE
Poster Boys

J.D. CAVRICH

They learned to play on driveways, not the inner-city playgrounds, but Dan Earl (left) and Pete Lisicky are street-smart on the court

BY DAVID JONES

If you're expecting to hear a tale about two players who honed their skills on crumbling asphalt playgrounds amid gunfire and squalor, turn the page. The Penn State backcourt duo of Dan Earl and Pete Lisicky knows nothing about escaping the traps that infest many inner cities.

In fact, when Earl and his scrawny teenaged buds from Medford Lakes, N.J., strayed from their leafy turf to find games in south Jersey, strangers weren't exactly intimidated. "A lot of times, we'd have a bunch of guys laughing at us," says Earl, the point guard. "They'd be snickering and giggling and saying, 'Let's split up the teams.' Well, they didn't know us.

"Then we'd go out and kick their butts."

Lisicky sprouted from a happy gang of eight kids in the Allentown, Pa., suburb of Whitehall.

"It was like a sitcom family," he says. "All we needed was a camera in the house."

But Lisicky often couldn't find a pickup game. So, he'd simply shoot on the driveway hoop out back. By himself. "My older brothers would be off somewhere else a lot of times," he says. "So I'd go back there and shoot. For hours. Maybe I'd come in to eat. But then I'd go right back out."

No matter their backgrounds, the Penn State guards are surprisingly tough, too. If Earl, a 6-4 senior, and Lisicky, a 6-4 junior, don't possess the showtime flash desired by many of today's players, so be it. Opposing coaches know how effective they can be.

"The game still belongs to those who think and are skilled and are tough-minded," Wisconsin coach Dick Bennett says. "Those are the assets I admire in both of them. They're never going to lose a game for you. You've got to beat them.

"I've been raised with that mentality in coaching—just don't screw it up. And they don't. They don't do things they can't do. Lisicky will not force a shot. And Earl is just so sound."

That Penn State burst from national obscurity to the school's first ranking in 31 years (the Lions got as high as ninth) last season is testament largely to a backcourt that's entering its third year starting together. Earl placed in the Big Ten's top three in steals (first, 1.74 per game), assists (second, 5.2) and 3-point percentage (.426). Lisicky caught fire from 3-point range early in the season and cooled only slightly. He made a school-record 89 3-pointers, five times hitting at least six in a game. His .477 3-point percentage was tops in the league and ranked seventh in Division I.

Though roommates, they are an odd pair: Earl, the resolute perfectionist, ever mindful of his flaws; Lisicky, an easy performer, always believing the next jumper will fall.

When Earl and Lisicky decided to attend Penn State, the program was struggling through a rocky transition from the Atlantic 10 to the Big Ten. To that point, despite considerable success in the dimly lit A-10, Nittany Lions basketball had been all but invisible.

"When I was a sophomore and just starting to look at schools, I didn't really know Penn State had a basketball team," Lisicky says. "I didn't even know what league they were in."

But one March day back in 1991, Lisicky sat down with his dad, who played at La Salle, and snapped on the TV. There was "Tournament Week," when ESPN turns its lenses toward the outpost leagues and their passionate conference title games. It was the A-10 Tournament championship matching Penn State and George Washington, and father and son witnessed a wild, court-flooding celebration as Penn State claimed its first NCAA Tournament berth in a quarter-century.

Lisicky remembered the event and another two years later, when Penn State lost a memorable double-overtime battle against top-ranked Indiana. He was hooked. Lisicky committed in the summer, snubbing UCLA, Indiana and several other big names before his senior year had begun.

Earl, whose father played at Rutgers, was considered a hot recruit out of Shawnee High, the kind of Jersey kid who usually sticks in the Big East. Through Earl's high school career, often playing in elite out-of-state tournaments, Shawnee lost only 10 games.

Earl was so stricken by the rare losses, he would sink into a sullen mood for days afterward, speaking more than a few words to no one. Earl had a soulmate at Penn State in coach Bruce Parkhill. A winner for years, Parkhill was consumed by the losses that mounted while he built the program, and the defeats played a big part in causing him to quit in 1995 after (ironically) a 21-victory season.

During his recruitment, Earl developed a spiritual bond with Parkhill and top assistant Jerry Dunn, Parkhill's eventual replacement. When Earl committed to Penn State in the fall of 1992, it was a shocker. "The biggest joy I get is to be an underdog and then proving people wrong," Earl says.

Penn State was an underdog, all right. As Earl arrived for his freshman year, the Lions were coming off a 7-20 season, including a 2-16 debut in the Big Ten. Though the Lions improved to a respectable 13-14 (6-12 Big Ten) with Earl starting at the point, the player who rarely lost in high school had a hard time adjusting to the frequent failures.

Lisicky's arrival the next season lifted some of the burden and the mood. Unsinkable and confident, he had won the 3-point shooting contest at the Nike camp the previous summer, so a slow start in his first Big Ten season didn't shake him. "I get all this support from people telling me, 'Just keep shooting, everything's OK,' " Lisicky said at the time. "I feel like saying, 'I know it's OK. Just leave me alone. I'll be fine.' " He was. By the end of the season, Lisicky was on a hot streak that hasn't really cooled.

Lisicky brought with him one similarity to Earl: an intense distaste for losing. He was known as "The Tasmanian Devil" to his brothers and sisters for his reaction as a child to defeat in any game.

"It could be something as simple as who's going to make it to the playground first," says his sister, Stephanie. "And when he lost, he was the Tasmanian Devil. His face would get redder and redder. And

he had these green eyes that would get greener and greener."

It may take that type of adrenaline for the guards to help Penn State merely equal its success of last season. Without graduated forwards Matt Gaudio and Glenn Sekunda, more of the load falls upon Earl and Lisicky to spark the offense.

Over the summer, Earl let orthopedic specialists probe a degenerative disk that caused him increasing back pain last season. There is no medical answer. So, this season will likely produce post-game locker room scenes similar to last year—the other Lions dressed and out the door and Earl sitting alone on a training table with an ice pack strapped to his back.

Earl started last season spry and springy. He virtually undressed Santa Clara's Steve Nash, the No. 15 pick in the NBA draft, in a rout of the Broncos in the Cable Car Classic. But by the end of an 86-80 loss to Arkansas in the first round the NCAA Tournament, Earl could barely move. He lay watching TV as younger brother Brian, also a guard, helped Princeton upset UCLA later that night.

"If we had beaten Arkansas, I really don't know if I could've gone on the next game," Earl says. "It just got harder and harder to get stretched out and ready to play."

Lisicky has no such worries. He spent the summer playing with the U.S. Under-22 Select squad that helped tune-up the U.S. Olympic Team in July. Lisicky made coach Mike Montgomery's cut to 16 thanks to his typical dead-eye shooting.

Lisicky's so-so ballhandling was later exposed in a brief matchup with Mitch Richmond in the Select Team's game against Dream Team III, but Montgomery still loves that sweet jumper.

"Kids all want to go showtime," says Montgomery, the Stanford coach. "But this is still a game of skills. You put together a team, you still got to have guys who can shoot the ball. And Pete was clearly one of those guys."

But nothing seemed to be dropping in that abortive NCAA loss against the brilliant chaos of Nolan Richardson's pressure defense. The young Razorbacks were the type of ultra-athletic team that can exploit Earl's and Lisicky's liabilities. Yet, despite the loss, that game may have been an ultimate testament to what makes the Penn State guards special.

Earl and Lisicky had been scrambled by the Hogs' pressing backcourt tandem of Kareem Reid and Marlon Towns and would finish a combined 10-of-27 from the field. But that didn't stop the Nittany Lions' guards from finishing with a flurry despite trailing, 71-53, with 5:30 left.

In a little more than two minutes, the weary Earl willed in five points, Lisicky bombed in a pair of 3-pointers and the Lions had cut it to seven. Another Lisicky 3-point attempt that would have made it 74-70 with 3:00 left dipped down and rimmed out. "I still thought we would pull it out," Lisicky said later.

"We played hard," Earl says. "But they were a tough team. Tough guys to run into."

Tough guys. These two should know. ◆

David Jones covers Big Ten, Big East and ACC basketball for the Harrisburg (Pa.) Patriot-News.

Unit Rankings/Backcourt

(Projected starters in bold)

1. **Massachusetts** (Charlton Clarke, Monty Mack, **Edgar Padilla**, Winston Smith, **Carmelo Travieso**). Great defense, clutch shooting, good passing, no turnovers—the starters are just solid all-around players. The backcourt will have to bear more of the scoring burden this season. Clarke and the two freshmen (Mack and Smith) will help.

2. **Kentucky** (**Derek Anderson**, Allen Edwards, **Anthony Epps**, Jeff Sheppard, Wayne Turner). A mighty athletic bunch whose only shortcoming is a lack of outside pop. But that likely will be taken care of by small forward Ron Mercer, who could swing to the backcourt on occasion.

3. **Kansas** (Nicky Bradford, **Jerod Haase**, Ryan Robertson, Billy Thomas, **Jacque Vaughn**). Vaughn is the nation's preeminent point guard. But Kansas' bugaboo last season was its outside shooting, and until Haase (35.6 percent) and Thomas (35.8 percent) shoot better, KU isn't going to the Final Four. Bradford is a touted freshman who will help upgrade the team's athleticism.

4. **South Carolina** (Herbert Lee Davis, **Larry Davis**, **BJ McKie**, Hagen Rouse, **Melvin Watson**). The starting trio could be devastating; each is quick and a good shooter. McKie was the SEC's Freshman of the Year last season, and Davis starred in his first season after transferring from North Carolina. Watson is an underrated point guard.

5. **Fresno State** (**Kendric Brooks**, James Gray, **Chris Herren**, **Dominick Young**). Bombs away—Brooks and Young are among the best 3-point shooters in the land. Herren is a Boston College transfer who will make the Bulldogs even more explosive. Gray, who started last season, is academically ineligible but could return for the second semester. Regardless, the Bulldogs will go as far as their guards take them—and that likely will be into late March.

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

A transfer from North Carolina, Larry Davis is kicking up his heels as a key member of South Carolina's gifted guard corps.

6. **Virginia** (**Courtney Alexander**, **Harold Deane**, Willie Dersch, Monte Marcaccini, Jamal Robinson, **Curtis Staples**). A really good group, but one whose effectiveness will be somewhat curtailed because the Cavs have a huge void inside. Deane and Staples have great range, but it could again be for naught because there's no low-post scoring threat. Alexander is a swingman coming off a solid freshman season. Dersch, a freshman, is considered a Chris Mullin type.

7. **Texas** (**Kris Clack**, **Reggie Freeman**, Anthony Goode, Brandy Perryman, **DeJuan Vazquez**, Titus Warmsley). A tremendously athletic group. Freeman is the big scorer, while Clack can swing to the frontcourt. Perryman is a bomber deluxe. Goode is a touted freshman from Dallas whom coach Tom Penders calls "a New York-style point guard."

8. **Arizona** (**Mike Bibby**, **Miles Simon**, Jason Terry). Bibby, a freshman, is the key to the Wildcats' season. He should be up to the task. Simon is a good passer who has developed a solid outside shot; he also can take it to the hole effectively. Terry will see time at both guard spots; he can be an effective outside shooter.

9. **Auburn** (Earnest Brown, Derek Caldwell, Daymeon Fishback, **Wes Flanigan**, Julius Robinson, Bryant Smith, **Michael Spruell**). Tons o' talent and quickness. JC transfer Spruell, if he's eligible, gives the Tigers a tremendous scorer. Flanigan, waging a battle against cancer, is a slick point guard. Fishback and Robinson are highly touted freshmen.

10. **Penn State** (Ryan Bailey, **Dan Earl**, **Pete Lisicky**, Greg Stevenson). A very nice—if somewhat athletically limited—unit. Lisicky is a great long-range shooter. Earl had a better than 2-to-1 assist-turnover ratio last season. Depth could be a problem: Stevenson and Bailey (brother of UCLA's Toby) are freshmen.

TEN OTHER FORMIDABLE BACKCOURTS—ARKANSAS (Glendon Alexander, **Pat Bradley**, Steve Green, **Kareem Reid**, Marlon Towns, Tarik Wallace); **BOSTON COLLEGE** (Andy Bedard, Damien Foster, **Antonio Granger**, **Scoonie Penn**, **Duane Woodward**); **CINCINNATI** (**D'Juan Baker**, Darnell Burton, **Damon Flint**, Melvin Levett, Charles Williams); **DUKE** (**Jeff Capel**, **Trajan Langdon**, Ricky Price, Steve Wojciechowski); **MARQUETTE** (Mike Bargen, **Aaron Hutchins**, **Anthony Pieper**, Marcus West); **MINNESOTA** (Russ Archambault, **Eric Harris**, **Bobby Jackson**, Mark Jones, Quincy Lewis, Charles Thomas); **RHODE ISLAND** (**Joshua King**, Cuttino Mobley, Preston Murphy, **Tyson Wheeler**); **UCLA** (**Toby Bailey**, **Cameron Dollar**, Rico Hines, Kris Johnson, Brandon Loyd); **VILLANOVA** (**Howard Brown**, John Celestand, Brian Lynch, **Alvin Williams**); **XAVIER** (Sherwin Anderson, **Lenny Brown**, Ken Harvey, **Gary Lumpkin**, Darnell Williams).

EIGHT UNDERRATED BACKCOURTS—ARIZONA STATE (**Quincy Brewer**, Eddie House, Jason Patton, **Jeremy Veal**); **BOWLING GREEN** (Howard Chambers, **Antonio Daniels**, **Jay Larranaga**, DeMar Moore, Tony Reid); **ILLINOIS** (Halim Abdullah, **Kiwane Garris**, Matt Heldman, **Bryant Notree**, Kevin Turner); **IOWA STATE** (DeAndre Harris, **Jacy Holloway**, Shelby Walton, **Dedric Willoughby**); **OREGON** (Terik Brown, **Jamar Curry**, **Jamal Lawrence**, Tyron Manlove, **Kenya Wilkins**); **PURDUE** (**Chad Austin**, Mosi Barnes, Jaraan Cornell, **Alan Eldridge**); **VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH** (Melvin Drake, **Sherman Hamilton**, **Patrick Lee**, Marcus Reed, Robert Shelton); **WYOMING** (Torin Ragin, **Jeron Roberts**, Gregg Sawyer, **LaDrell Whitehead**, Ned Wrightson).

SCOTT WACHTER

Laying DOWN the LAW

WAC opponents would be quick to cite the Lobos' Kenny Thomas for one thing—outstanding play as a front-liner

BY CHRIS TOMASSON

With all of the time Kenny Thomas has spent in courtrooms and dealing with lawyers, you'd think he were majoring in pre-law.

Thomas, a sophomore center/forward at New Mexico, thought he would be spending most of the first few months of his college life learning about low-post moves, zone defenses and moving without the ball. Not exactly—he spent more time learning about injunctions, depositions and preliminary hearings.

All of this was because in September 1991—long before Thomas became a top college basketball prospect—he showed up for his freshman year at Austin High School in El Paso, Texas, and thought "Introductory Physical Science" would be a good course to take.

Thomas is coming off the best freshman season a New Mexico player has had. In 33 games, he averaged 14.7 points and 7.8 rebounds, was named Western Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year and helped lead the Lobos to a 28-5 mark, their winningest season ever. But if you ask the NCAA, Thomas should have averaged 0.0 points in zero games and should have had to buy a ticket to watch the Lobos play.

"He should not have played as a freshman because, according to the NCAA bylaws, he did not have the required 13 core courses," says Jack Kitchin, the NCAA's legal counsel.

The NCAA's Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse ruled that "Introductory Physical Science" was not a core course, leaving Thomas with 12.5 units. Thomas appealed to the NCAA and was turned down. Then his family sued the NCAA. "It was David against Goliath," says Bob Brack, an attorney for Thomas.

At 6-9 and 270 pounds, Thomas made for a rather large David, but he unquestionably was the underdog during a hearing that captivated Albuquerque during the first week of November.

After the two sides debated about whether Austin High School had received adequate notice from the NCAA that "Introductory Physical Science" should not be a core course, an Albuquerque judge rendered his decision. Thomas received a preliminary injunction, allowing him to play as a freshman. The big guy then broke into tears.

"It was a real emotional time for me," Thomas says. "It was a point in my life that scared me. I was scared until I found out I could play. I've played basketball my whole life, and I don't know what I would have done if somebody had taken it away for a year."

The NCAA went into the fall still wanting to take a year of eligi-

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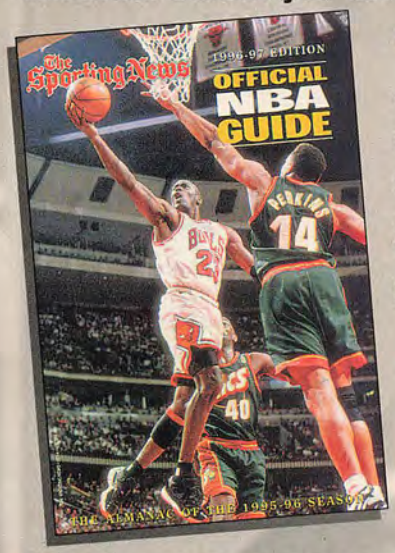

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CB6

'Kenny Thomas in his freshman season was a man among boys. You could not play him straight up. If he keeps getting better, it almost won't be fair.'

—BYU coach Roger Reid

bility away from Thomas. But Thomas appears to be safe for this season, since the earliest a trial could be held would be mid-1997.

That is not good news for WAC foes, who saw Thomas get better and better as last season progressed. The first two times he went up against nationally ranked Utah, Thomas looked lost, managing a combined 21 points and 10 rebounds in the two games as the Lobos lost by 18 and 16 points.

Then came the WAC Tournament championship game at The Pit, New Mexico's fabled home court. Thomas scored 30 points, grabbed 17 rebounds and was named tournament MVP as the Lobos upset the 10th-ranked Utes, 64-60.

"He's a legitimate All-America candidate," Utah coach Rick Majerus says. "He is a Karl Malone-type of player."

Not surprisingly, Thomas admires Malone, a perennial NBA all-star. The Utah Jazz forward owns a car dealership in Albuquerque, and when Thomas was attending Albuquerque High School—where he played as a senior after transferring from Austin High—he met Malone.

"He asked me what shoe size I wore, and then he sent me a size-16," Thomas says.

But if Thomas hopes to follow in Malone's NBA shoes, the general consensus is he must lose weight. Thomas played last season at 270 pounds, 20 more than New Mexico's coaches would have liked. In Thomas' defense, his battle with the NCAA caused him to miss the first three weeks of practice, and that didn't help his conditioning. Thomas was still 20 pounds overweight in June, when he went to Colorado Springs to try out for USA Basketball's Under-22 National Team. He failed to make the team.

"Kenny Thomas needs to lose some weight," says Mel Daniels, a former New Mexico center who is director of player personnel for the Indiana Pacers. "He's got a lot of talent, but he wasn't able to show all of it. It's something that is up to him. If the money that is being paid NBA players these days isn't enough motivation, I don't know what is.

"I like the fact that he has skills off the block. He has some clever moves. He's a good passer. He can play (in the NBA), but there are hundreds of ballplayers who also have talent. He's got to make up his mind how hard he wants to work."

Thomas says he's ready to work hard. He took part in an extensive weightlifting and conditioning program during the summer. When the thermometer hit 100 degrees and the comfort of an air-conditioned room beckoned, Thomas said his goal of playing in the NBA kept him going. He also said he was spurred on by his struggles in Colorado Springs.

"I went up there to the trials out of shape. I didn't play like I could have," he says. "I knew the tryouts were going to be big, but I didn't realize how big it would be. There is a time in everybody's career when they have a downfall and this was my downfall. It was a good learning experience."

The more Thomas learns, the more opponents must be wary of the Lobos, who last season advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament before losing to Georgetown. The top eight scorers are back from a team that finished 23rd in the final Associated Press poll.

Thomas may move to power forward this season to make way for 7-1 junior center Daniel Santiago, who spent the summer playing for the Puerto Rican Olympic team. That will give Thomas more room to move and opponents even more matchup problems.

"Kenny Thomas in his freshman season was a man among boys," Brigham Young coach Roger Reid says. "You could not play him straight up. If he keeps getting better, it almost won't be fair."

Thomas' progression has been stunning. Before his junior season at Austin High, few folks outside of El Paso had heard of him. Thomas was a pudgy kid during his first two years of high school; then he started growing up rather than out.

His basketball skills also began to develop. Thomas developed deft moves around the basket, and his passing skills improved to the point that he would hit unsuspecting teammates in the head with passes. He became a ferocious rebounder as well.

By the summer before his senior season, the secret was out. North Carolina was after Thomas, as were UCLA and Connecticut. But Thomas, a third-team *Parade* All-American as a senior, elected to stay in Albuquerque, where he had moved so he could face better high school competition.

"The reason I went to New Mexico was (Lobos assistant coach) Tony Benford," Thomas says. "He was there watching me play my junior year in high school when nobody else was there."

That didn't mean Benford wasn't sweating it out in the summer of 1994, when Thomas was pondering his decision and the November signing period was still several months away.

"You bet I was," Benford says. "Word was getting out. I'm watching Kenny play that summer and (Kentucky coach) Rick Pitino walks up behind me."

Now the only thing New Mexico coaches have to worry about is the NCAA, which has vowed not to give up its fight easily. And judging by how Thomas played as a freshman, the toughest competition he may face in his remaining college years may be in a court of law, not on a basketball court. ◆

Chris Tomasson is a sportswriter for the Albuquerque Journal.

OVERLOOKED GEMS

Like Kenny Thomas, there are a number of other players who for various reasons—they play for a poor team, they toil in a lesser conference, they are overshadowed by teammates—don't get the attention they deserve. Some of those players:

Chad Austin, G, Purdue	Mike Powell, G, Loyola (Md.)
Tony Battie, C, Texas Tech	Kevin Price, F, Duquesne
Geno Carlisle, G, Northwestern	Vincent Rainey, G/F, Murray State
Ryan Cuff, F, Weber State	Lynnrick Rogers, G, Drake
Jason Daisy, G, Northern Iowa	Bryon Ruffner, G, BYU
Bryce Drew, G, Valparaiso	Tony Rutland, G, Wake Forest
Chris Garner, G, Memphis	Curtis Simmons, F, Ohio U.
Pat Garrity, F, Notre Dame	Damien Smith, G, Southern Miss
Nate Green, C, Idaho State	Greg Smith, F, Delaware
Jeff Harris, F, Saint Louis	Danny Strong, F, North Carolina St.
T.J. Lux, C/F, Northern Illinois	Jason Sutherland, G, Missouri
Drew Maddux, G, Vanderbilt	Vandale Thomas, F/G, Southern U.
Martice Moore, F, Colorado	Chris Watson, F, Niagara
Jeff Myers, G, Drexel	Brandon Wharton, G, Tennessee
Ryan Perryman, F, Dayton	LaDrell Whitehead, G, Wyoming
Jonathan Pixley, F, Samford	Monty Wilson, G/F, Tennessee State

The Sporting News

TOP 25

CAPSULES BY MIKE DECOURCY

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

1. CINCINNATI

There is a fashion in college basketball that goes beyond what designer suits are worn on the sideline by coaches such as Bob Huggins and how baggy players' shorts can become. The trend now is this: The best team wins. Arkansas in 1994, UCLA in 1995, Kentucky in 1996—the Bearcats would love to keep it rolling. They have the team speed Kansas lacks, the attention to defense that is a periodic event at UCLA and, in junior forward Danny Fortson, the reliable low-post machine Kentucky somehow managed to do without last season. Senior guard Darnell Burton will, given the opportunity, win games with his steely will and quick release from long range. What Cincinnati lacks is a point guard. Huggins is taking a leap of faith by giving the job to junior college transfer D'Juan Baker. Baker has been a shooting guard in the past but is a reliable sort who could fit well into the playmaking and leadership demands of the point. Should he falter, versatile senior Damon Flint could step in. The other key recruit is junior college All-American small forward Ruben Patterson. He dominated at the 1995 U.S. Olympic Festival, scoring at will against many of the best college freshmen and sophomores. Huggins always has been one to see a half-filled glass as half-empty. So when he says of this team, "I think we'll be really good," the implications are frightening.

G/F Damon Flint

2. KENTUCKY

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Tony Delk? Gone. Walter McCarty? Gone. Mark Pope? Antoine Walker? Gone, too. But with all the Wildcats lost, they kept their most valuable ($30 million) asset, coach Rick Pitino, and the most talented player in the program, small forward Ron Mercer. He'll emerge as an All-American and could carry the 'Cats to the first NCAA repeat since Duke ('91, '92). At guard, leader Anthony Epps is joined by athletes Derek Anderson, Jeff Sheppard and Wayne Turner. And this year's model may possess the one critical element of success last year's lacked: a dominant post player. Jamaal Magloire, a 6-10 freshman from Toronto, will join senior Jared Prickett, who missed last season with a knee injury.

F Ron Mercer

3. UCLA

ALBERT DICKSON / THE SPORTING NEWS

Let's see: Another first-round tournament disaster, another ridiculous stockpile of talent, another O'Bannon entering his senior year. Last time these elements were combined on a campus, the explosion left the Bruins as national champs. This edition may not have more talent than the 1994-95 Bruins, but it does have more players who are experienced and versatile. Toby Bailey, Charles O'Bannon, Kris Johnson and J.R. Henderson not only are the best wing rotation in the nation, but also one of the best in the past decade. But UCLA still lacks a reliable point guard. The lingering embarrassment of the Princeton debacle may bond the Bruins, but it hasn't been that long since this program walked proudly.

F Charles O'Bannon

4. UTAH

TIM JACKSON

Thanks to a wacky unbalanced league schedule, coach Rick Majerus isn't sure if any team will be able to claim it's the best in the WAC, so the Utes will just have to shoot for something more tangible: the Final Four. Utah isn't the quickest of the contenders, but it definitely is one of the biggest. Led by 6-11 center Michael Doleac, Utah has a bunch of guys who can work you over inside. Forward Keith Van Horn doesn't quite fit with all his muscular frontcourt partners and doesn't possess the physical profile of a great college player, but the senior will contend for player of the year honors. A concern for the Utes is backcourt depth. Andre Miller is progressing toward All-WAC status, but his chums are shaky.

C Michael Doleac

5. KANSAS

ALBERT DICKSON / THE SPORTING NEWS

You probably expected to see the Jayhawks higher on this list. Fine. We'll believe it when we see it. Kansas has been one of the great regular-season teams of this decade, but after three years, point guard Jacque Vaughn—likely out until January with a hand injury—doesn't know what the Final Four looks like up close. No team has more skilled players, but KU is prone to bouts of inconsistent shooting, and neither power forward Raef LaFrentz nor small forward Paul Pierce has demonstrated the capacity to consistently take over games on offense. Coach Roy Williams felt the Jayhawks were the better team when they fell to Syracuse in last year's West Regional final. He hopes he isn't repeating that lament this spring.

G Jacque Vaughn

6. WAKE FOREST

BRIAN SPURLOCK

The Demon Deacons again will attempt to ride center Tim Duncan deep into March. They've advanced one additional step in each of his three seasons but may lack the pieces to make a big leap to the Final Four. After missing much of last year's tournament with a knee injury, point guard Tony Rutland is back and prepared to control the outside game. Duncan's cohorts up front, power forward Sean Allen and scoring forward Ricky Peral, are veteran starters, and Duncan has prep All-American Loren Woods behind him. Wake will miss the shooting and tenacity of guard Rusty LaRue, and it lacks an athletic, slashing wing player who can punish foes for double-teaming Duncan.

C Tim Duncan

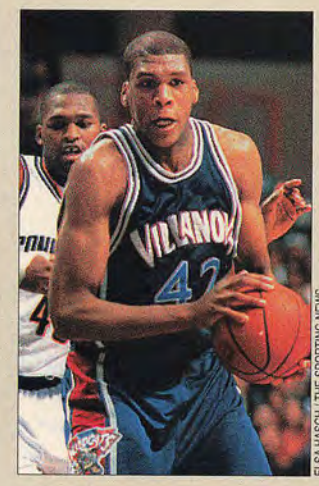
7. SYRACUSE

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

The Orangemen could rely too much on three or four freshmen, but one is Winfred Walton, a 6-9 forward from Detroit who may be the best player in his class. He is an intriguing replacement for John Wallace and will fit well with burly Otis Hill. Syracuse fought a summer-long battle to retain Los Angeles-area point guard recruit Jason Hart, who wanted to remain close to his ailing brother. It's important Hart not feel too much pressure to succeed as a result of the controversy. Coach Jim Boeheim is likely to stick with the zone that confounded so many opponents. The Orangemen, again, are not built for speed. Watch for small forward Todd Burgan to emerge as a star, if Walton doesn't beat him to it.

F Todd Burgan

8. VILLANOVA


ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

After flaming out of the past two NCAA Tournaments, the Wildcats will learn how to survive in March under coach Steve Lappas, right? If Lappas can squeeze some outstanding guard play from sophomores Howard Brown and John Celestand and senior Alvin Williams, the Wildcats will have an opportunity to achieve postseason success. The front line is deep, tall and skilled, but center Jason Lawson and power forward Chuck Kornegay need to be more productive on the offensive end. The coaches are concerned that the duo may struggle accepting mega-hyped freshman Tim Thomas getting shots and attention that otherwise might have been theirs with Kerry Kittles gone.

C Jason Lawson

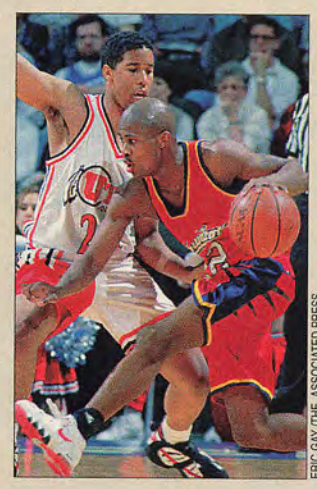
9. DUKE

ALBERT DICKSON / THE SPORTING NEWS

The only thing stranger than watching the postseason proceed without the Blue Devils (like in 1995) was seeing them make a dismal appearance and quick exit in tears after losing to a MAC team (like in '96). Coach Mike Krzyzewski has been rebuilding the roster in stages, and the recruitment of forwards Nate James and Chris Carrawell is progress. Forward Taymon Domzalski and swingman Ricky Price have the ability to excel, and talented guard Trajan Langdon returns from a medical redshirt year to a lineup that needs his ballhandling and shooting. But is there a point guard? Jeff Capel remains a shoot-first type. Coach K often defends junior Steve Wojciechowski—but he often sits him on the bench, too.

F/G Ricky Price

10. IOWA STATE


ERIC GAY / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A whole lot of programs gleefully would have traded 1995-96 seasons with the shocking Cyclones, but not many would have been willing to swap offseasons. The players so egregiously disregarded coach Tim Floyd's class attendance rules he canceled a summer overseas tour, but the Cyclones should be ready to take care of business and use their experience and athletic ability. Floyd loves to teach clog-the-lane, man-to-man defense. Scoring deficiencies prevented the Cyclones from advancing further last March, but that problem could be solved if center Kelvin Cato progresses at last season's pace. Floyd can count on Dedric Willoughby, who transferred from New Orleans and was one of the Big Eight's best last year.

G Dedric Willoughby

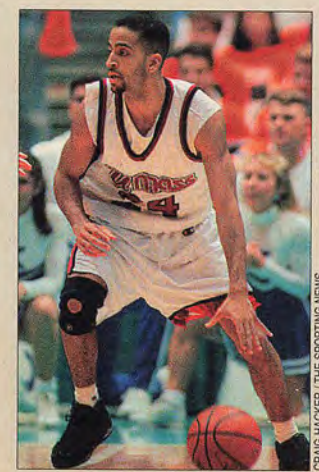
11. FRESNO STATE

TIM JACKSON

Dominick Young, Kendric Brooks, Terrance Roberson and Chris Herren. It seemed like a good idea to mention some players in this blurb before coach Jerry Tarkanian. Everything with the Bulldogs seems to begin with Tark, who remains the team's biggest star in spite of the enormous amount of talent assembled on the Fresno campus. With this much size, quickness and backcourt stability, it wouldn't be a surprise to see Fresno State take Tark to his fifth Final Four. But he'll have to manage the egos of the new players (Roberson, Herren, forwards Daymond Forney and Danyell Macklin) with four who started last season and may not wish to give up playing time. It may take time for everyone to blend.

G Dominick Young

12. MASSACHUSETTS


CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

There's no doubt the Minutemen will be less interesting now that Marcus Camby and (especially) John Calipari decided to make more money in the pros. But less successful? Not necessarily. If guards Carmelo Travieso and Edgar Padilla keep improving at their current rate, one will be Jerry West and the other Walt Frazier by February. Center Lari Ketner, an academic casualty last year, is a player his Philadelphia brethren have raved about for years. Big men Tyrone Weeks and Inus Norville showed promise as reserves last season. But the Minutemen will have to depend on several freshmen—one being coach James "Bruiser" Flint—in an attempt to win a sixth consecutive Atlantic 10 title.

G Carmelo Travieso

13. ARKANSAS

BRIAN SPURLOCK

The team that had everything but experience last season has less of everything but experience this time. No one really needs a dozen players, though, so the Razorbacks figure to be improved. Two of the returning players are the best at their positions in the SEC: point guard Kareem Reid and power forward Derek Hood. With 6-11 Lee Wilson around for one more season, the Razorbacks will hardly miss their other physically gifted, underproductive center (Darnell Robinson). If he's eligible, prep All-American Glendon Alexander will provide scoring from the wing. Instead of just 80 minutes of hell, which the Hogs laid on Penn State and Marquette in two NCAA wins last March, Arkansas is ready for a season's worth.

F Derek Hood

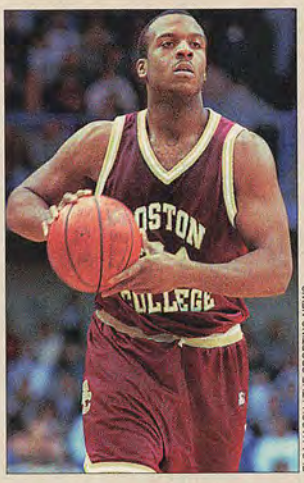
14. NORTH CAROLINA

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

Considering how worldly this team has become, Final Four site Indianapolis may not seem an exotic destination. Serge Zwikker is from the Netherlands; Ed Cota was born in Panama; Ademola Okulaja is from Nigeria by way of Germany; Vassil Evtimov is from Bulgaria by way of Long Island, N.Y.; and Makhtar Ndiaye is from Senegal by way of Wake Forest and Michigan. All those guys have talent. The Tar Heels are young, and they'll struggle if Cota can't handle the playmaking job, but those five and U.S.-born studs Antawn Jamison and Vince Carter give coach Dean Smith (851) a legitimate shot at catching career victories leader Adolph Rupp (876) this season.

F Antawn Jamison

15. BOSTON COLLEGE


ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

To all those schools eager to fire coaches that don't win enough or recruit enough high-profile players, Jim O'Brien offers an enduring lesson about patience. He returned from the edge to deliver an Elite Eight finish in 1994, a team that surprised by advancing to the second round last March and a current edition capable of even greater heights. The recurring theme on those teams is beefy forward Danya Abrams. Four other starters return, including point guard Scoonie Penn; Penn, though, will miss at least the first semester because of academic woes. No starter is taller than 6-7, but four big guys are on the bench in case matchups become a problem.

F Danya Abrams

16. MINNESOTA

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

If your mission was to find a Big Ten team in this ranking, congratulations for sticking with us. The maligned league has as many good teams as any, but greatness has been an elusive quality of late and that problem figures to persist. The Gophers are a bit slow for an elite team, but they've got experience at every position and quality depth. There were those who predicted stardom for small forward Sam Jacobson last year, and it's possible that call was a year premature. After a 7-2 Big Ten finish led to the NIT last year, this team will go to the Big Dance this season. But breaking a league title drought that has lasted since 1982 will depend on improvement from junior point guard Eric Harris.

G Bobby Jackson

17. NEW MEXICO

SCOTT WACHTER

In a state that is loco about its Lobos, New Mexico could be in for a wild year. Offensively, the Lobos' top seven players are on par with every team's but UCLA, with center Kenny Thomas, guard Charles Smith and small forward Clayton Shields leading the charge. If only the defense and schedule were better. The odd thing about this team is coach Dave Bliss has been known as a defensive coach, but a lack of oomph at that end may hold back the Lobos a bit. Bliss may incorporate a trapping scheme, which would play into the fast hands of reserve guard Royce Olney, a master thief. However good this team becomes, folks may have trouble buying it because the Lobos so rarely get to prove themselves against the nation's best.

G Charles Smith

18. CLEMSON

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

It seems fitting that the youngest team in the Top 25 has a coach who looks younger than his age. Rick Barnes is the Dick Clark of college coaches, and we rate his team an 85: It'll beat a lot of opponents en route to the Big Dance. Point guard Merl Code and forward Iker Iturbe are recovering from injuries that cost them most or all of last season, making Clemson a team with seven starters returning. What it lacks is the ability to score against foes that play oppressive defense and scout well; in other words, everybody in the ACC. Barnes is hopeful another year of maturity for forward Greg Buckner and swingman Tony Christie and the arrival of flashy Vincent Whitt erases those concerns.

F Greg Buckner

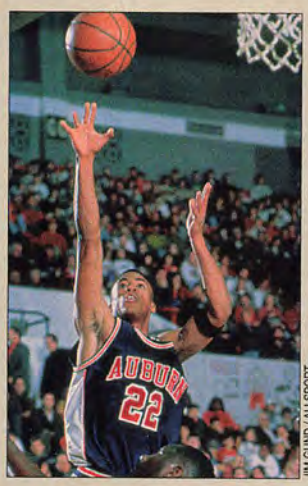
19. MICHIGAN

BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN

It wouldn't be surprising if the Wolverines end up ranked No. 1 or No. 9 instead of No. 19, but until this group proves it can consistently play together, Michigan is a safer bet to wind up here. This team is a recruiting service's dream, but is it a coach's nightmare? Big men Maurice Taylor and Maceo Baston have great skills but haven't defended well. Guard Louis Bullock can shoot, handle and pass but didn't fit at point guard. Small forward Jerod Ward hasn't been healthy long enough to prove he isn't a bust. Coach Steve Fisher will hand the reins of the offense to junior college stud Brandun Hughes, who likes to shoot. Here's some advice for him: Get Albert White the ball on the block.

F Maurice Taylor

20. AUBURN

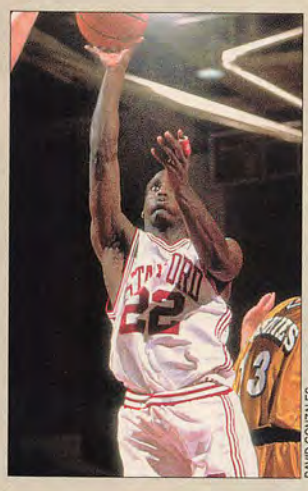


JIM GUND / ALLSPORT

John Kennedy had not yet been voted president. Charles Barkley had not yet been born. That's how long it has been since Auburn last won the SEC championship (1959-60), but these Tigers have an excellent shot at finishing first. Led by courageous point guard Wes Flanigan, who is expected to play this season after recovering from bone cancer surgery, the Tigers will be an athletic team with excellent depth on the wing—trying to get the ball in scoring position against these guys won't be a treat—and a strong collection of freshman talent that features guard Julius "Doc" Robinson and forward Daymeon Fishback. There isn't a lot of size up front, aside from 6-11 center Pat Burke, so rebounding could be a problem.

G Wes Flanigan

21. STANFORD



DAVID GONZALES

You'd think coach Mike Montgomery would be sick of looking at senior Brevin Knight after all the time he spent with him last summer on the USA Basketball's Select Team. Yeah, right. The sight of Knight speeding downcourt is dreamy. He has developed from an unknown freshman into one of the nation's finest point guards, and he'll lead a promising club that welcomes back 7-1 Tim Young, who also played with the Select Team after missing 1995-96 with a back injury. The Cardinal reached the NCAA second round without him. Stanford's Pac-10 title hopes will be boosted if Montgomery can find someone to keep up with Knight, who is more effective than most when moving at full speed.

G Brevin Knight

22. MARQUETTE

RUDY WINSTON FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

Teams facing the Golden Eagles come to understand what baseball teams go through against the Atlanta Braves: You face them, your batting average goes down and you probably lose. Marquette has spent the past half-decade guarding the basket better than any Division I program, and that emphasis will continue. Junior guard Aaron Hutchins also is a mesmerizing offensive player; he led Marquette in scoring and Conference USA in assists during his first year as a starter last season. His backcourt partner, Anthony Pieper, has uncommon range. Coach Mike Deane has to replace two frontcourt starters, but 6-9 Chris Crawford, a sweet-shooting power forward, provides a solid foundation.

G Anthony Pieper

23. ARIZONA

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

It can be dangerous to ignore this program, as many did last preseason. But indignation being the motivation of choice in Tucson, the Wildcats probably will wonder why they're ranked this low despite having no seniors and only one returning starter, guard Miles Simon. Lute Olson has as much work to do as any coach, but to go along with Simon he has 6-11 post players A.J. Bramlett and Donnell Harris and the striking quickness of junior small forward Michael Dickerson. Two gifted freshmen—forward Eugene Edgerson and point guard Mike Bibby—appear ready to perform at a high level. Bibby will make life miserable for Pac-10 coaches, a list that includes his father, USC's Henry.

G Miles Simon

24. TEXAS

GLENN JAMES FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS

No more slumming in the Southwest Conference. If the Longhorns are to be one of the nation's great programs, they'll have to do it in one of the nation's great leagues, the Big 12. Coach Tom Penders has big-time talent on hand, but, as always, he could use more big men. Kris Clack (6-5, 205) had to play some power forward last year. Penders hopes 6-8 junior college signee Ira Clark offers some relief, with 6-9 Dennis Jordan possibly taking over at center. With Clack on the perimeter, Texas will have some of the best guard play in the country. Reggie Freeman is a productive scorer, DeJuan Vazquez plays intimidating defense and Brandy Perryman specializes in shooting.

G Reggie Freeman

25. GEORGE WASHINGTON

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Watch No. 53—if you can find him on the court. Sophomore point man Shawnta Rogers, who stands 5-3 and wore No. 10 last season, has a gimmicky number and a feverish game, whizzing past startled foes and outmuscling those who think their height is an advantage. GW is no pint-sized club, though. The best player actually is 7-1 center Alexander Koul, who does not wear No. 71 but may soon be making, oh, $7.1 million as an NBA lottery pick. There are some quality veterans in between, notably swingman J.J. Brade and forward Yegor Mescheriakov, plus 6-7 Patrick Ngongba, the first big-name recruit to choose GW since Yinka Dare. If Ngongba is ready to contribute, GW might not come up short in March.

G Shawnta Rogers

The Rest: Nos.

KEY: *—NCAA Tournament team; †—NIT team.

26. South Carolina*
27. Purdue*
28. Connecticut*
29. Georgia Tech*
30. Louisville*
31. Providence*
32. Iowa*
33. Tulsa*

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Illinois State forward Dan Muller

34. Oklahoma State*
35. UNLV*
36. Temple*
37. Indiana*
38. Georgetown*
39. Illinois State*
40. Tulane*
41. Alabama*
42. Rhode Island†
43. College of Charleston*
44. Florida State*
45. Kansas State*
46. Miami (Ohio)*
47. Old Dominion*
48. Oregon*
49. Illinois†
50. Texas Tech†
51. Xavier†
52. St. John's†
53. Houston†
54. Rice†
55. Virginia†
56. Washington†
57. Penn State†
58. Wyoming†
59. Arkansas-Little Rock*
60. Oklahoma†
61. Maryland†
62. Mississippi State†
63. Wisconsin†
64. Michigan State
65. Miami (Fla.)
66. UAB†
67. Texas Christian†
68. West Virginia†
69. Long Beach State*
70. Memphis
71. Tennessee†
72. Missouri
73. UNC Charlotte
74. Georgia
75. Nebraska
76. Vanderbilt
77. Pittsburgh
78. Virginia Tech†
79. San Francisco*
80. Saint Louis
81. Brigham Young
82. North Carolina State
83. Seton Hall
84. Florida
85. Southwest Missouri State†
86. Eastern Michigan†
87. Loyola (Md.)*
88. California
89. Montana*
90. Bradley†
91. Drexel*
92. St. Joseph's
93. Ball State†
94. Fairfield†
95. Hawaii
96. Southern California
97. Marshall*
98. Colorado
99. Washington State
100. Northern Illinois*
101. Southern Mississippi
102. St. Bonaventure
103. LSU
104. DePaul
105. Austin Peay*
106. Ohio State
107. Dayton
108. Ohio University
109. Texas-El Paso
110. Bowling Green
111. Virginia Commonwealth†
112. Creighton
113. Detroit†
114. Oregon State
115. San Diego State
116. UT-Chattanooga
117. Arizona State
118. Colorado State
119. Mississippi
120. Texas A&M
121. Idaho State
122. Rutgers
123. Boston University†
124. Evansville
125. Baylor
126. Utah State†
127. Duquesne
128. Gonzaga†
129. Western Kentucky†
130. Coppin State*
131. Liberty*
132. New Orleans
133. Notre Dame
134. Northern Iowa
135. Princeton*
136. Weber State
137. Northwestern
138. East Carolina
139. Niagara
140. Pacific
141. Middle Tennessee State
142. San Jose State
143. Southwestern Louisiana
144. Northeast Louisiana*
145. Southern Illinois
146. Jackson State*
147. Western Michigan
148. St. Mary's
149. Delaware
150. Kent
151. Drake
152. Wagner*
153. Southern
154. Butler
155. Nevada
156. Buffalo*
157. Long Island U.†
158. Valparaiso
159. Tennessee State
160. Colgate*
161. San Diego
162. Jacksonville
163. James Madison
164. Idaho
165. South Florida
166. Iona
167. Oral Roberts
168. Portland
169. La Salle
170. Richmond
171. UC Santa Barbara
172. Wisconsin-Green Bay
173. Boise State
174. Wichita State
175. Lamar
176. New Mexico State
177. UNC Wilmington
178. Santa Clara
179. Loyola (Ill.)
180. Canisius
181. Montana State

26-306

GEORGE TARBAY / NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Northern Illinois guard/forward Chris Coleman

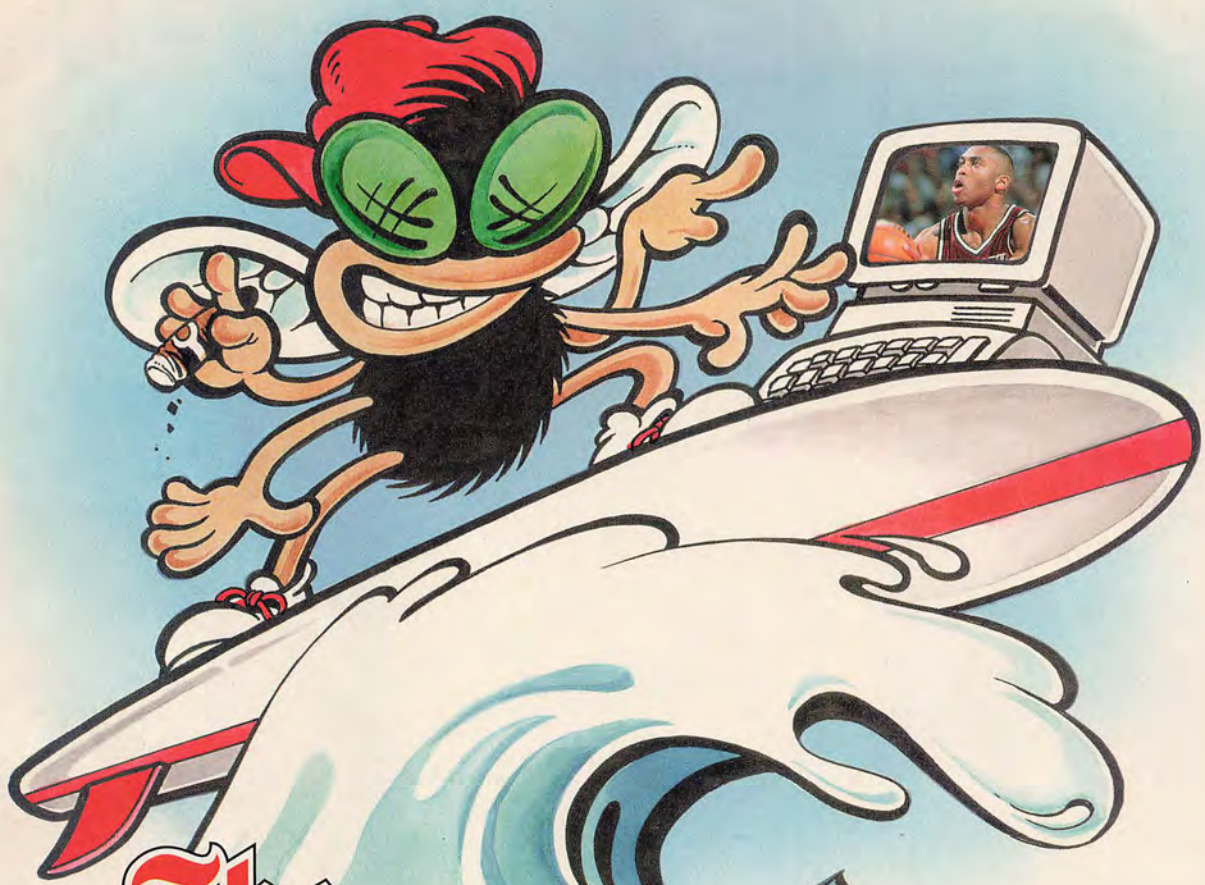
182. Murray State
183. Hartford
184. Penn
185. Appalachian State
186. South Alabama
187. Central Michigan
188. George Mason
189. Tennessee Tech
190. Southern Methodist
191. Arkansas State
192. Toledo
193. Wright State
194. Louisiana Tech
195. Loyola Marymount
196. American
197. Manhattan
198. Cleveland State
199. Southeast Missouri State
200. Pepperdine
201. Northeastern
202. Indiana State
203. Radford
204. Southeastern Louisiana
205. Navy
206. McNeese State
207. Furman
208. Monmouth
209. South Carolina State
210. Dartmouth
211. Bucknell
212. UNC Greensboro
213. Wisconsin-Milwaukee
214. Siena
215. Fairleigh Dickinson
216. Air Force
217. Samford
218. Western Carolina
219. Southwest Texas State
220. Illinois-Chicago
221. Hofstra
222. Eastern Kentucky
223. Cal Poly-SLO
224. Alcorn State
225. North Carolina A&T
226. Cal State Fullerton
227. Davidson
228. St. Francis (Pa.)
229. Northern Arizona
230. Rider
231. Troy State
232. Georgia State
233. Winthrop
234. Youngstown State
235. Florida Atlantic
236. Nicholls State
237. Mercer
238. Stetson
239. Texas Southern
240. Towson State
241. Charleston Southern
242. Stephen F. Austin
243. Fordham
244. Florida International
245. Mount St. Mary's
246. Texas-San Antonio
247. Central Florida
248. Southern Utah
249. St. Peter's
250. Western Illinois
251. Eastern Illinois
252. Coastal Carolina
253. Virginia Military Institute
254. UNC Asheville
255. Mississippi Valley State
256. East Tennessee State
257. New Hampshire
258. Delaware State
259. North Texas
260. Texas-Pan American
261. William & Mary
262. Sam Houston State
263. Marist
264. UC Irvine
265. Northeastern Illinois
266. Centenary
267. Harvard
268. UT-Martin
269. Maryland-Eastern Shore
270. Cal State Northridge
271. The Citadel
272. Maryland-Baltimore County
273. Akron
274. Morehead State
275. Maine
276. Campbell
277. Cal State Sacramento
278. Jacksonville State
279. Northwestern State
280. Yale
281. Central Connecticut State
282. Brown
283. Bethune-Cookman
284. St. Francis (N.Y.)
285. Morgan State
286. Grambling
287. Lafayette
288. Howard
289. Missouri-Kansas City
290. Columbia
291. Holy Cross
292. Florida A&M
293. Alabama State
294. Army
295. Texas-Arlington
296. Georgia Southern
297. Eastern Washington
298. Robert Morris

PAUL CHAPMAN / UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Central Florida guard/forward Harry Kennedy

299. Cornell
300. Hampton
301. Lehigh
302. Vermont
303. Chicago State
304. Wofford
305. Prairie View
306. Portland State

TSN on AOL!



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League Rankings

All is right again on Tobacco Road—the ACC is back on top

By Mike Huguenin

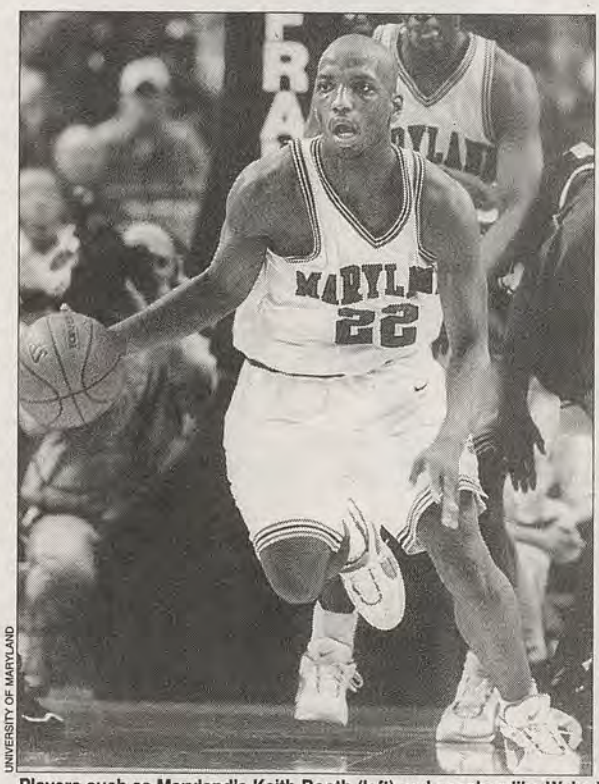
A slight bump in the road.

That's probably the best way to characterize last season, when the ACC *wasn't* the best conference. Instead, that honor went to the Big East.

This season, though, it appears as if things will return to normal, with the ACC back on top. And while the league may not have that one super team that looks like a Final Four lock, it appears as if there are seven teams with a legitimate shot at an NCAA bid.

The ACC is especially strong in the middle. After the top three of Wake Forest, Duke and North Carolina, there is a grouping of four teams—Clemson, Georgia Tech, Florida State and Virginia—with each having some big pluses offset by a few minuses. Even Maryland, which appears to be a bottom-feeder, has some marquee players in Keith Booth, Laron Profit and Terrell Stokes. Only North Carolina State—which has a long way to go under new coach Herb Sendek—looks like a team with no chance to play in March.

Here's how the 30 conferences stack up:



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Players such as Maryland's Keith Booth (left) and coaches like Wake Forest's Dave Odom are what make the ACC so strong year in and year out. This season, the ACC is the strongest of them all.

1. ATLANTIC COAST

Teams (9): Clemson, Duke, Florida State, Georgia Tech, Maryland, North Carolina, North Carolina State, Virginia, Wake Forest.

Comment: Top to bottom, this is a mighty strong league. It also has the nation's best player in Wake Forest center Tim Duncan. Rick Barnes has made Clemson into a team to be reckoned with; the young Tigers may be a year away from contending for the national title. If Virginia had a frontcourt, the Cavs would be a threat in March. Florida State has tremendous talent, but can Pat Kennedy get it all to mesh? N.C. State is the best last-place team in any league.

2. SOUTHEASTERN

Teams (12): Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, LSU, Mississippi, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vanderbilt.

Comment: Sure, last season's best team (Kentucky) lost four players to the NBA. So what? The 'Cats still are loaded. South Carolina under Eddie Fogler and Tennessee under Kevin O'Neill are building potential powerhouses. Look for the Gamecocks to be a fringe Top 25 team, thanks to a tremendous trio of guards. In the West, Arkansas looks to be the strongest team, with Auburn and Alabama also potential NCAA squads. LSU has some good, young talent—but the Tigers have had that in the past and still been bad. Meanwhile, Mississippi State may be in line for a big fall if guard Marcus Bullard is ineligible.

3. BIG EAST

Teams (13): Boston College, Connecticut, Georgetown, Miami, Notre Dame, Pittsburgh, Providence, Rutgers, St. John's, Seton Hall, Syracuse, Villanova, West Virginia.

Comment: It won't be like last season, when the Big East had three (UConn, Georgetown, Villanova) of the top seven or eight teams in the nation—then had Syracuse make a surprise run to the Final Four. Still, this year, Syracuse and Villanova should spend a lot of the season hanging around the Top 10, and BC should finish in the Top 20. Depending on what happens at Georgetown, UConn, Providence, St. John's, West Virginia and Miami, the Big East could again be the strongest league. Going into the season, the league looks as if it has five legit NCAA teams. Will that number rise to six or seven?

4. BIG TEN

Teams (11): Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, Wisconsin.

Comment: Yeah, we know the Big Ten pulled another gag job in last year's NCAAs. Still, there are a lot of good teams in this league. If junior college transfer Brandun Hughes comes through at point guard for Michigan, the Big Ten could even have a great team. Meanwhile, expect maybe nine teams in postseason play. Michigan State freshman Mateen Cleaves may be the best Spartans point guard since a guy named Johnson toiled in East Lansing in the late '70s.

5. WESTERN ATHLETIC

Teams (16): Air Force, BYU, Colorado State, Fresno State, Hawaii, New Mexico, Rice, San Diego State, San Jose State, Southern Methodist, Texas Christian, Texas-El Paso, Tulsa, UNLV, Utah, Wyoming.

Additions: Rice (from Southwest), San Jose State (from Big West), SMU (from Southwest), TCU (from Southwest), Tulsa (from Missouri Valley), UNLV (from Big West).

Comment: Don't scoff at this high ranking. This league has three legit Top 20 teams (Utah, Fresno and New Mexico), and Tulsa, UNLV, Rice and Wyoming should end up making some kind of postseason plans. The league also has some of the best players in the nation in Utah forward Keith Van Horn, Tulsa guard Shea Seals and New Mexico center/forward Kenny Thomas. Meanwhile, Jerry Tarkanian has a budding powerhouse at Fresno in only his second season. Watch for transfer guard Chris Herren; his arrival gives the Bulldogs one of the best backcourts in the nation.

6. BIG 12

Teams (12): Baylor, Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech.

Additions: Baylor, Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech (all from Southwest).

Comment: Tough at the top with Kansas, Iowa State and Texas, but—frankly—no one else really jumps out as a team that would/could pose problems in March. There are a lot of solid (read: 15-16-17 or so victories) teams here. Nebraska looks as if it will reverse a trend: For the past five or six years, the defending NIT champ has made some noise in the NCAAs the next season. Not only will the Huskers not make any noise, they won't even get to the NCAAs.

7. CONFERENCE USA

Teams (12): Cincinnati, DePaul, Houston, Louisville, Marquette, Memphis, UNC Charlotte, Saint Louis, Southern Mississippi, South Florida, Tulane, UAB.

Addition: Houston (from Southwest).

Comment: This basically is a strong league, but certainly nowhere near as tough as last season. This is another conference that after you get past the elite (Cincinnati and Marquette), there are few teams that seem certain to be playing in March. NCAA sanctions could hurt Louisville. Four new coaches (at UNCC, South Florida, Southern Miss and UAB) could have rough first seasons. And, please, no more Alabama-Birmingham: The school wants to be known as UAB.

8. PACIFIC-10

Teams (10): Arizona, Arizona State, California, Oregon, Oregon State, Southern California, Stanford, UCLA, Washington, Washington State.

Comment: UCLA appears primed for another title run; perhaps

the ignominy of last season's NCAA shocker to Princeton will spur the Bruins. Arizona, meanwhile, is shaping up as an absolute monster—next season. Look for a big tumble from Cal, which lost its two best players—one (Shareef Abdur-Rahim) to the NBA and one (Tremaine Fowlkes) to Pepperdine—and its coach, Todd Bozeman, who resigned in late August.

9. ATLANTIC 10

Teams (12): Dayton, Duquesne, Fordham, George Washington, La Salle, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, St. Bonaventure, St. Joseph's, Temple, Virginia Tech, Xavier.
Comment: Oh, those heady days of last season, when conference torchbearer UMass made it to the Final Four. This year should be somewhat of a letdown for the A-10. Rhode Island and, especially, Xavier look to be teams to watch for next season. Xavier has an all-sophomore backcourt that will turn some heads.

10. MISSOURI VALLEY

Teams (10): Bradley, Creighton, Drake, Evansville, Illinois State, Indiana State, Northern Iowa, Southern Illinois, Southwest Missouri State, Wichita State.
Deletions: Tulsa (to Western Athletic).
Comment: The league will suffer from the loss of Tulsa. This season, at least, the MVC has Bradley's Anthony Parker to be proud of. Parker is one of a number of top off-guards in the league (others include Drake's Lynnrick Rogers and Northern Iowa's Jason Daisy). Former Indiana heartthrob Steve Alford heads into his second season at Southwest Missouri. Look for the Bears in the NIT.

11. MID-AMERICAN

Teams (10): Akron, Ball State, Bowling Green, Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Kent, Miami, Ohio University, Toledo, Western Michigan.
Comment: No standout team, but a number of standout players. Eastern Michigan point guard Earl Boykins, Miami power forward Devin Davis and Ball State small forward Bonzi Wells are among the best in the nation at their positions.

12. METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC

Teams (8): Canisius, Fairfield, Iona, Loyola, Manhattan, Niagara, St. Peter's, Siena.
Comment: The league took a hit when Manhattan coach Fran Fraschilla left for St. John's. Loyola—behind guard Mike Powell, a Virginia transfer—should make its second NCAA trip in three seasons.

13. WEST COAST

Teams (8): Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, Portland, St. Mary's, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara.
Comment: San Francisco coach Phil Mathews is tapping his junior college roots to turn the Dons around. But it likely will be a short reign for USF because new Pepperdine coach Lorenzo Romar will have a Top 40-caliber team next season, when a number of big-name transfers become eligible.

14. SUN BELT

Teams (10): Arkansas-Little Rock, Arkansas State, Jacksonville, Lamar, Louisiana Tech, New Orleans, South Alabama, Southwestern Louisiana, Texas-Pan American, Western Kentucky.
Comment: Wimp Sanderson has worked wonders at UALR, and Bill Musselman has South Alabama back on track.

15. COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOC.

Teams (9): American, East Carolina, George Mason, James Madison, UNC Wilmington, Old Dominion, Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth, William & Mary.
Comment: This likely will be the final go-round for Lefty Driesell at James Madison. It's too bad he won't go out on top.

16. BIG WEST

Teams (12): Boise State, UC Irvine, Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo, UC Santa Barbara, Cal State Fullerton, Idaho, Long Beach State, Nevada, New Mexico State, North Texas, Pacific, Utah State.
Additions: Boise State (from Big Sky), Cal Poly-SLO (from independent ranks), Idaho (from Big Sky), North Texas (from Southland).
Deletions: San Jose State and UNLV (both Western Athletic).
Comment: UNLV's defection and New Mexico State's problems with the NCAA certainly don't help this league. Boise State and Idaho were two of the better programs in the Big Sky.

17. MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE

Teams (9): Butler, Cleveland State, Detroit, Illinois-Chicago, Loyola of Chicago, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wright State.
Comment: The infusion of new coaching blood in Rollie Massimino (Cleveland State) and Jimmy Collins (Illinois-Chicago) has those two programs hoping for improvement. UIC is hoping Collins' familiarity with the Chicago high school scene will pay off in recruiting. Hmmm—that's the same thing Detroit folks said when that school hired Perry Watson.

MIAMI OF OHIO

Miami of Ohio's Devin Davis is among many solid players featured in the Mid-American Conference.

18. AMERICA EAST

Teams (10): Boston University, Delaware, Drexel, Hartford, Hofstra, Maine, New Hampshire, Northeastern, Towson State, Vermont.
Comment: New name, same teams. Formerly known as the North Atlantic Conference, this league has some solid mid-level programs. Hey, when is some big school going to scoop up Drexel coach Bill Herrion? Even without Malik Rose, the Dragons will be tough again, thanks to a good backcourt.

19. BIG SKY

Teams (9): Cal State Northridge, Cal State Sacramento, Eastern Washington, Idaho State, Montana, Montana State, Northern Arizona, Portland State, Weber State.
Additions: Cal State Northridge and Cal State Sacramento (both from independent ranks), Portland State (new program).
Deletions: Boise State and Idaho (both to Big West).
Comment: The newcomers don't come close to making up for the teams that left. The spotlight will be on the Big Sky this season if for no other reason than Portland State, which likely will go winless as it brings back basketball after a 15-year hiatus.

20. OHIO VALLEY

Teams (10): Austin Peay, Eastern Illinois, Eastern Kentucky, Middle Tennessee State, Morehead State, Murray State, Southeast Missouri State, UT Martin, Tennessee State, Tennessee Tech.
Addition: Eastern Illinois (from Mid-Continent).
Comment: Austin Peay's Bubba Wells is a scoring machine and a heck of a lot of fun to watch. Murray loses NBA draftee Marcus Brown, but Racers swingman Vincent Rainey will take up the slack.

21. SOUTHERN

Teams (10): Appalachian State, Citadel, Davidson, East Tennessee State, Furman, Georgia Southern, Marshall, UT Chattanooga, Virginia Military Institute, Western Carolina
Comment: Western Carolina came within a whisker of upsetting Purdue in last year's NCAA Tournament, so there is some good basketball played here. UT Chattanooga's Johnny Taylor is an NBA prospect.

22. BIG SOUTH

Teams (8): Charleston Southern, Coastal Carolina, Liberty, Maryland-Baltimore County, UNC Asheville, UNC Greensboro, Radford, Winthrop.
Comment: Defections after this season will hurt this league. But this year, watch for Liberty center Peter Aluma, who will get a chance to join fellow Nigerian Hakeem Olajuwon in the NBA next season.

23. TRANS AMERICA ATHLETIC

Teams (12): Campbell, Centenary, Central Florida, College of Charleston, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Georgia State, Jacksonville State, Mercer, Samford, Southeastern Louisiana, Stetson.
Comment: Watch for coach John Kresse's College of Charleston squad. The Cougars return their top 10 scorers, led by center Thaddeous Delaney. C of C will get to show its stuff in the Great Alaska Shootout against the likes of Kentucky, Syracuse, Stanford and Arizona State.

24. NORTHEAST

Teams (10): Fairleigh Dickinson, Long Island University, Marist, Monmouth, Mount St. Mary's, Rider, Robert Morris, St. Francis (N.Y.), St. Francis (Pa.), Wagner.
Comment: Richie Parker (see "Openers," page 6) will be a high-rise talent in a low-rent league.

25. SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC

Teams (8): Alabama State, Alcorn State, Grambling State, Jackson State, Mississippi Valley State, Prairie View A&M, Southern, Texas Southern.
Comment: The league suffered a big loss when respected Southern coach Ben Jobe unexpectedly resigned in August to take the coaching job at Division II Tuskegee. He left behind a good player in Jaguars swingman Vandale Thomas, a former Mississippi high school player of the year.

26. SOUTHLAND

Teams (9): McNeese State, Nicholls State, Northeast Louisiana, Northwestern State, Sam Houston State, Southwest Texas State, Stephen F. Austin, Texas-Arlington, Texas-San Antonio.
Deletion: North Texas (to Big West).
Comment: Just call this the "Mike Vining League." Northeast Louisiana's coach will try to lead the Indians to their seventh league title in eight seasons.

27. MID-CONTINENT

Teams (9): Buffalo, Central Connecticut State, Chicago State, Missouri-Kansas City, Northeastern Illinois, Troy State, Valparaiso, Western Illinois, Youngstown State.
Deletion: Eastern Illinois (to Ohio Valley).
Comment: Junior guard Bryce Drew is a former Mr. Basketball in Indiana who spurned the bigger schools to play for his dad, Homer, at Valparaiso. The Drews again should lead Valpo to the NCAA Tournament.

28. IVY

Teams (8): Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton, Yale.
Comment: It just won't be the same without Princeton coach Pete Carril, who has become an assistant with the NBA's Sacramento Kings.

29. PATRIOT

Teams (7): Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh, Navy.
Comment: Truthfully, the only reason to watch any game in this league is the chance to see Colgate center Adonal Foyle. You'll be able to tune in in March, when Foyle and his teammates are first-round NCAA fodder for a No. 1 seed.

30. MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC

Teams (10): Bethune-Cookman, Coppin State, Delaware State, Florida A&M, Hampton, Howard, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Morgan State, North Carolina A&T, South Carolina State.
Comment: Coppin State is working on an unenviable streak—the Eagles have dominated regular-season play the past three seasons only to lose in the conference tourney. This season, Terquin Mott and Reggie Welch shouldn't let that happen again.

INDEPENDENTS

Teams (3): Oral Roberts, Southern Utah State, Wofford.
Deletions: Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo (to Big West), Cal State Northridge and Cal State Sacramento (to Big Sky).
Comment: Wofford joins the Southern Conference next season. ◆

Mike Huguenin is an assistant managing editor at THE SPORTING NEWS.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

ATLANTIC COAST

Conference Rank: 1

By Doug Doughty

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. WAKE FOREST
2. DUKE
3. NORTH CAROLINA
4. CLEMSON
5. GEORGIA TECH
6. FLORIDA STATE
7. VIRGINIA
8. MARYLAND
9. N.C. STATE

ALL-ACC TEAM

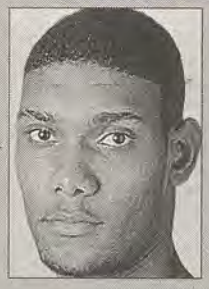
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	KEITH BOOTH, Maryland	6-6/221	Sr.
G	HAROLD DEANE, Virginia	6-2/175	Sr.
C	TIM DUNCAN, Wake Forest	6-10/248	Sr.
F	MATT HARPRING, Georgia Tech	6-7/226	Jr.
G	TONY RUTLAND, Wake Forest	6-2/183	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	GREG BUCKNER, Clemson	6-4/200	Jr.
G	JAMES COLLINS, Florida State	6-4/190	Sr.
F	ANTAWN JAMISON, North Carolina	6-8/216	Soph.
G	TRAJAN LANGDON, Duke	6-3/195	Soph.
F	RICKY PRICE, Duke	6-5/185	Jr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



TIM DUNCAN
C, Wake Forest

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

KEVIN MORRIS, G, Georgia Tech

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Tony Rutland, Wake Forest.

Best rebounder: Tim Duncan, Wake Forest.

Best playmaker: Terrell Stokes, Maryland.

Best defender: Harold Deane, Virginia.

Best leaper: Jamal Robinson, Virginia.

Best under 6 foot: Terrell McIntyre, Clemson.

Best over 7 foot: Serge Zwikker, North Carolina.

Most versatile: Matt Harpring, Georgia Tech.

Most flamboyant: Vince Carter, North Carolina.

Best NBA prospect: Tim Duncan, Wake Forest.

1. WAKE FOREST

Frontcourt: After leading the Deacons to a second consecutive ACC tourney title, Tim Duncan resisted the urge to turn pro and announced he would return for his senior year. Duncan, bidding to become the first two-time ACC Player of the Year since Danny Ferry in 1988-89, is coming off a junior year in which he led the conference in rebounding and blocks and finished second in scoring and field-goal percentage. But he's not all the Deacons have to offer. Small forward Ricky Peral, who has started 63 of 64 games the past two years, presents match-up problems because of his size (6-10) and shooting range. He led the ACC in 3-point percentage last year. Sean Allen is a willing role player at the other forward spot, and freshman Loren Woods, Duncan's heir apparent, gives Wake the option of going 7-1, 6-10, 6-10 along the front line.

Backcourt: Tony Rutland took over from Randolph Childress and answered all questions about whether he was an ACC-caliber point guard. But Rutland suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament in the ACC championship game that rendered him almost useless for the NCAA Tournament and required offseason surgery. The Deacons expect him to play this year, although he may be slowed in the early going. Jerry Braswell has considerable experience, and Steven Goolsby, a deadly shooter prone to streaks, should get ample playing time at shooting guard or small forward.

Key to success: The Deacons reached the final eight of last year's NCAA Tournament with Rutland hobbled, but they wouldn't want to play without him for an extended period.

Outlook: The Deacons have the potential to win a third consecutive ACC tournament title, a feat accomplished only two other times in conference history, most recently by North Carolina from 1967-69. A regular-season ACC title would be nice—Wake hasn't finished in sole possession of first since 1962—but irrelevant in the grand scheme. With Duncan, the Deacons certainly have the capacity to go deep into the NCAA Tournament.

DEMON DEACONS DATA

Coach: Dave Odom (142-72, 7 years; 180-114 overall, 10 years; 9-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 26-6. ACC: 12-4/2nd. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest final.
Starters lost (1): Rusty LaRue, G (10.1 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 48.4 FG%, 88.0 FT%, 46.4 3-pt%, 30.6 mpg).
Others lost: Antonio Jackson, F (9.6 mpg; transfer/UAB); Armond Wilson, G (transfer/Mississippi State).
Starters returning (4): Sean Allen, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 23.3 mpg); Tim Duncan, C, 6-10/Sr. (19.1 ppg, **12.3 rpg**, 2.9 apg, **3.8 bpg**, 55.5 FG%, 37.2 mpg); Ricky Peral, F, 6-10/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 51.0 FG%, 75.5 FT%, **51.0 3-pt%**, 30.3 mpg); Tony Rutland, G, 6-2/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.2 spg, 75.6 FT%, 40.1 3-pt%, 36.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Joseph Amonett, G, 6-5/Soph.; Jerry Braswell, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 70.9 FT%, 39.1 3-pt%, 22.1 mpg); Steven Goolsby, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 45.0 FG%, 45.8 3-pt%, 14.5 mpg); Marc Scott, G, 6-2/Sr.; Billy Stringfellow, F, 6-8/Soph.
Top newcomers: Rodney West, F/C, 6-10/Fr. (RS); Loren Woods, C, 7-1/Fr.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1990.
Site: Winston-Salem, N.C. **Home court:** Lawrence Joel Coliseum (14,407).

2. DUKE

Frontcourt: Greg Newton, whose status was uncertain for months leading up to last season, finally began to fulfill his potential as a junior. He should team well with Taymon Domzalski in the middle. As a freshman last season, Domzalski was a fifth wheel offensively and couldn't stay out of foul trouble. Swingman Ricky Price, whose role fluctuated as a freshman, became more consistent as a sophomore and could be a star in the making. Roshown McLeod, a transfer from St. John's, is the closest thing to a post player in a highly touted four-man newcomer class that includes no one shorter than 6-6. Duke finished last in the ACC in rebounding last year, so that's an area where a freshman could leave his mark. Freshmen Nate James, Chris Carrawell and Mike Chappell come with a lot of press clippings.

Backcourt: Coach Mike Krzyzewski likes to use three perimeter players and will have no shortage of candidates despite the loss of 3-point specialist Chris Collins. Jeff Capel led Duke in scoring but has a tendency to play out of control. Krzyzewski hopes Trajan Langdon can provide some stability after missing last season with an injury. Steve Wojciechowski provides depth and flexibility.

Keys to success: The Blue Devils have slowly returned to the talent level they enjoyed from 1986-94, when they advanced to the Final Four seven times in nine years. Whether they can do so again this year hinges on the ability of some of the veterans and highly touted recruits to accept complementary roles. Capel needs to improve his decision-making and shot selection or face a reduction in his time. Last year, Krzyzewski did not have that option.

Outlook: Last year, the Blue Devils erased some of the memories of a nightmarish 1994-95 season—when they lost 16 of their last 20 games—but they did not finish strongly. Duke lost in the quarterfinals of the ACC Tournament and first round of the NCAA

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Duke's Price developed consistency as a sophomore and could be on the verge of a big season.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

Tournament. This group must prove it has the mental toughness of its predecessors.

BLUE DEVILS DATA

Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (376-139, 16 years; 449-198 overall, 21 years; 39-10 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '91, '92).
1995-96 record: 18-13. ACC: 8-8/T4th. Lost to Eastern Michigan in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost (1): Chris Collins, G (16.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 46.7 FG%, 72.2 FT%, 44.1 3-pt%, 34.6 mpg).
Others lost: Stan Brunson, F (9.1 mpg); Matt Christensen, F (left on Mormon mission).
Starters returning (4): Jeff Capel, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.7 apg, 76.3 FT%, 34.9 mpg); Taymon Domzalski, F/C, 6-10/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 49.3 FG%, 81.8 FT%, 20.5 mpg); Greg Newton, C/F, 6-10/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 56.8 FG%, 29.6 mpg); Ricky Price, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 71.1 FT%, 39.3 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Trajan Langdon, G, 6-3/Soph. (RS/leg); Carmen Wallace, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 80.6 FT%, 43.8 3-pt%, 20.7 mpg); Steve Wojciechowski, G, 5-11/Jr. (2.7 apg, 76.2 FT%, 21.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chris Carrawell, F, 6-6/Fr.; Mike Chappell, F, 6-8/Fr.; Nate James, F, 6-6/Fr.; Roshown McLeod, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/St. John's).
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Durham, N.C. **Home court:** Cameron Indoor Stadium (9,314).

3. NORTH CAROLINA

Frontcourt: No Tar Heel—not Michael Jordan, not Phil Ford, not Jerry Stackhouse—made first-team All-ACC as a freshman before Antawn Jamison last year. Jamison led the ACC in field-goal percentage (62.4) and offensive rebounds (119), helping the Heels overcome Rasheed Wallace's premature departure to the NBA. Carolina led the ACC in rebounding last season despite using a three-guard lineup much of the time and should be even more powerful this year. Makhtar Ndiaye, a former starter at Michigan, joins a unit that includes 7-2 senior Serge Zwikker. Don't overlook sophomore Ademola Okulaja, who has the body and the shooting touch (20-of-41 on 3-pointers) to contribute in a variety of ways. And freshman Vassil Evtimov is supposed to be a force.

Backcourt: Coach Dean Smith was among those who advised point guard Jeff McInnis to return for his senior year—wisely, it turns out, since McInnis was not selected until the second round of the NBA draft. Recruit Ed Cota was one of the top point guard prospects in the country, but Smith probably will take a look at Shammond Williams, who emerged as a valuable scorer off the bench but originally was recruited to play the point. Swingman Vince Carter, the most heralded member of the 1995-96 freshman class, failed to live up to his buildup as "the next Jordan," but there are few questions about his athletic ability. Smith predicts a breakthrough season for Carter.

Key to success: Smith, true to form, is quick to throw walk-on Webb Tyndall into the mix at point guard. But, in reality, the Heels have only two options: Cota or Williams. Williams established himself as an ACC-caliber guard last year, but whether he's a point guard is open to question. He will have to improve on the 65-57 assist-to-turnover ratio he compiled last year.

Outlook: There were dire predictions for the Heels when Wallace and Stackhouse headed to the NBA after only two seasons, but Carolina still won 21 games, its 26th consecutive season with at least 20 wins.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson returns all five starters, including sophomore standout McIntrye at guard.

There are fewer questions about this team, which should advance to the Sweet 16 for the 15th time in 17 years.

TAR HEELS DATA

Coach: Dean Smith (851-247, 35 years; 61-26 NCAA Tournament record, won NCAA title in '82, '93).
1995-96 record: 21-11. ACC: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Texas Tech in NCAA East second round.
Starters lost (2): Dante Calabria, G (12.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.0 spg, 70.9 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 35.1 mpg); Jeff McInnis, G (16.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 5.5 apg, 1.2 spg, 80.0 FT%, 39.2 3-pt%, 34.5 mpg/declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): Vince Carter, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (7.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 17.9 mpg); Antawn Jamison, F, 6-8/Soph. (15.1 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 1.0 bpg, **62.4 FG%**, 32.9 mpg); Serge Zwikker, C, 7-2/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 29.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Charlie McNairy, F, 6-6/Sr.; Ademola Okulaja, F, 6-8/Soph. (6.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.1 spg, 52.5 FG%, 74.2 FT%, 48.8 3-pt%, 26.9 mpg); Ryan Sullivan, G, 6-3/Soph.; Webb Tyndall, G, 5-11/Sr.; Shammond Williams, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.0 apg, 45.2 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 39.7 3-pt%, 19.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Michael Brooker, F/G, 6-6/Fr. (likely to miss season with injury); Ed Cota, G, 6-1/Fr.; Vassil Evtimov, F, 6-9/Fr.; Makhtar Ndiaye, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/Michigan); Terrence Newby, G, 6-3/Fr.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1974.
Site: Chapel Hill, N.C. **Home court:** Dean E. Smith Center (21,572).

4. CLEMSON

Frontcourt: The Tigers didn't have a player who averaged six rebounds but still finished third in the ACC in rebounding, a tribute to their depth. One-time football prospect Harold Jamison started only six games but led the Tigers in rebounding (5.9) and should be even more of a force this year. Greg Buckner will have a big role after leading the Tigers in scoring each of the past two years, but at 6-4, he is undersized for the power forward role he often assumes. Andrius Jurkunas has the size (6-9) to play that spot, but prefers to hang around the perimeter, where his 3-point bombs (51-of-121) keep defenses honest. Fundamentally sound Tom Wideman started all 29 games at center but is not a shot blocker or a scorer.

Backcourt: Nobody had to ask why the Tigers were so high on signee Oded Kattash after he turned down Clemson's scholarship offer and accepted $1 million to play professionally in his native Israel. But it's not as if Clemson is hurting for guards. Terrell McIntyre, a North Carolinian who was passed over by most of the schools in his home state, proved to be the answer at point guard after Merl Code was hurt and was named to the ACC All-Rookie team. Now, Code is back, along with Bill Harder, who battled knee problems throughout the '95-96 season. Slasher Tony Christie is another option at one of the wing spots, as is freshman Vincent Whitt, who was North Carolina's player of the year last season.

Key to success: Clemson is one of several ACC teams that may not have enough playing time to satisfy all of its best players. Coach Rick Barnes did a good job of keeping people happy last year, when eight Tigers averaged 20 minutes or more. But this year Code re-enters the mix, as does forward Iker Iturbe, who missed last season with blood clot problems after starting 20 games in 1994-95.

Outlook: The Tigers, picked to finish last in each of Barnes' first two seasons, aren't going to sneak up on anybody. But they're still a go-to player away from becoming an elite team.

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Rick Barnes (33-24, 2 years; 161-110 overall, 9 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-11. ACC: 7-9/6th. Lost to Georgia in NCAA West first round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Patrick Garner, F (transfer/Furman); Danny Johnson, G (54.3 FG%, 8.1 mpg; transfer/College of Charleston).
Starters returning (5): Greg Buckner, F, 6-4/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 47.2 FG%, 32.8 mpg); Tony Christie, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 24.8 mpg); Andrius Jurkunas, F, 6-9/Soph. (8.4 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.2 bpg, 42.1 3-pt%, 25.0 mpg); Terrell McIntyre, G, 5-9/Soph. (12.7 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 79.2 FT%, 35.0 3-pt%, 31.2 mpg); Tom Wideman, C, 6-10/Soph. (5.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 48.5 FG%, 22.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Brian Chester, G, 5-11/Sr.; Merl Code, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 89.7 FT%, 41.3 3-pt%, 29.4 mpg); Bill Harder, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 2.3 apg, 72.0 FT%, 21.2 mpg); Iker Iturbe, F, 6-7/Soph. (RS/shoulder blood clot); Harold Jamison, C/F, 6-8/Soph. (7.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 24.0 mpg); LeDarion Jones, F, 6-6/Soph. (55.6 FG%, 7.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Woni Mohammed, C, 6-9/Fr.; Vincent Whitt, G/F, 6-6/Fr.
Last league title: 1990.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Clemson, S.C. **Home court:** Littlejohn Coliseum (11,020).

5. GEORGIA TECH

Frontcourt: Matt Harpring, once a recruiting afterthought, became a first-team All-ACC player as a sophomore. He has the game and the work ethic to become the Yellow Jackets' leader with the departures of Stephon Marbury and Drew Barry. Harpring scores inside and out, makes his free throws and last year led the team in rebounding. He doesn't block shots, but that's where center Eddie Elisma comes in.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Once, Elisma could do little more than block shots, but he scored in double figures in six consecutive games during one mid-season stretch and later had back-to-back 20-point games. Junior Michael Maddox, who started all 36 games as a sophomore, has good ball skills and shooting range to go with a big body, but he is maddeningly inconsistent. The Jackets could have used Juan Gaston, who transferred because he didn't think he could play football and basketball at Tech. There's hope that freshman Pablo Machado will be a productive big body.

Backcourt: The Jackets weren't sure they would lose Marbury until late in the postseason, which made it difficult to recruit a point guard. Signee Kevin Morris, another New York City product, was one of the best available at that stage. Gary Saunders, last year's sixth man, is a natural to move into the starting lineup at shooting guard and will be a more consistent shooter than Barry. What Tech will miss is Barry's versatility. He led the ACC in assists for three consecutive years and provided a second ballhandler that Tech could use to help Morris. The only other guard on the roster expected to see time is freshman Jason Floyd.

Key to success: The Jackets are down to eight scholarship players with the departures of Marbury and Barry and the transfers of Gaston and Bucky Hodge. So what else is new? Coach Bobby Cremins isn't comfortable with a big bench, but with as many freshmen as returning scholarship players, Tech needs its recruits to contribute right away.

Outlook: Nobody predicted big things last season from the Jackets, who were picked for sixth in the preseason but went on to finish 13-3 and claim the regular-season ACC title. Marbury, one of five players in ACC history to make all-conference as a freshman, was a big part of that. Tech has the potential to surprise again if Morris can be solid at the point.

YELLOW JACKETS DATA

Coach: Bobby Cremins (298-172, 15 years; 398-242 overall, 21 years; 15-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 24-12. ACC: 13-3/1st. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA Southeast semifinals.
Starters lost (2): Drew Barry, G (13.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, **6.6 apg**, 1.8 spg, 78.9 FT%, 36.8 3-pt%, **37.5 mpg**); Stephon Marbury, G (18.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.8 spg, 45.7 FG%, 73.8 FT%, 37.0 3-pt%, 37.4 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: Juan Gaston, F (45.5 FG%, 10.0 mpg; transfer/Clark Atlanta); Bucky Hodge, F/C (transfer/Central Florida); John Kelly, G.
Starters returning (3): Eddie Elisma, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 63.9 FG%, 30.5 mpg); Matt Harpring, F, 6-7/Jr. (18.6 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.8 spg, 51.0 FG%, 76.2 FT%, 42.9 3-pt%, 36.9 mpg); Michael Maddox, F, 6-8/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 42.6 3-pt%, 25.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Bryan Brennan, G, 6-4/Jr.; Ashley Kelly, F, 6-6/Soph.; Ryan Murphy, G, 6-3/Jr.; Gary Saunders, G, 6-5/Soph. (6.6 ppg, 35.0 3-pt%, 19.4 mpg); Ajani Williams, F, 6-7/Soph.
Top newcomers: Jon Babul, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jason Floyd, G, 6-6/Fr.; Pablo Machado, C, 6-10/Fr.; Kevin Morris, G, 5-11/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** Alexander Memorial Coliseum (9,800).

6. FLORIDA STATE

Frontcourt: Few teams in the country wouldn't trade frontcourt players with Florida State, although it's time for some of that talent to produce. Corey Louis, an ACC All-Rookie choice in 1994-95, never got on track last season and suffered a dropoff in almost every statistical category. Randell Jackson scored in double figures in his first six games, but otherwise was inconsistent and did not improve as the season wore on. Kirk Luchman had his best season, but he will be a senior this year and needs to show up every night. Coach Pat Kennedy says recruits Ron Hale and Ronald Thompson are 6-8 "slashers" who give the Seminoles a dimension they didn't have last season.

Backcourt: Kennedy hopes JC transfer Kerry Thompson puts a halt to a two-year shuttle in which LaMarr Greer, Scott Shepherd and Avery Curry played point guard. Shepherd has graduated, Curry has transferred to Nebraska and Greer could receive much of his playing time on the wing. The Seminoles need a distributor who can get the ball to the frontcourt players and James Collins, who trails only Tim Duncan and Harold Deane in scoring among active ACC players. Geoff Brower provides great shooting range, and Devonaire Deas is Florida State's highest-rated recruit.

Key to success: Obviously, something was wrong with Louis last season. Suspicions were raised by suspensions that sidelined him for the first two and the last two games of the regular season. Whatever the problems, Louis needs to increase his productivity and the Seminoles need to have more than one double-figure scorer, which was all they had last year.

Outlook: Kennedy was an active candidate for the opening at St. John's and did not

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endear himself to the FSU administration before his return to Tallahassee. Athletic director Dave Hart did not exercise the rollover clause in Kennedy's contract, and it's safe to say Kennedy is in trouble if he doesn't win this year. But not many teams in the league have better raw talent than FSU.

SEMINOLES DATA

Coach: Pat Kennedy (182-119, 10 years; 306-179 overall, 16 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-14. ACC: 5-11/8th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Avery Curry, G (6.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.2 spg, 22.0 mpg; transfer/Nebraska); Scott Shepherd, G (5.8 ppg, 70.7 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 14.2 mpg); Tim Wooden, F.
Starters returning (5): Geoff Brower, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.7 ppg, 70.6 FT%, 38.0 3-pt%, 15.2 mpg); James Collins, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.2 apg, 2.3 spg, 35.8 mpg); LaMarr Greer, G, 6-5/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 4.9 apg, 1.1 spg, 30.2 mpg); Corey Louis, F, 6-9/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 27.7 mpg); Kirk Luchman, C, 6-10/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 1.0 bpg, 62.6 FG%, 23.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Randell Jackson, F, 6-11/Soph. (9.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 50.0 FG%, 26.3 mpg); Kelvin McClendon, G, 6-5/Sr.; Gentry Sparks, F, 6-8/Jr. (8.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Devonaire Deas, G, 6-5/Fr.; Ron Hale, F, 6-8/Fr.; Tommy Polley, G, 6-5/Fr.; Kerry Thompson, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Ronald Thompson, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: 1991 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Tallahassee/Leon County Civic Center (12,500).

7. VIRGINIA

Frontcourt: Not even the Cavaliers realized how much they would miss Junior Burrough, the power forward on the 1994-95 team that reached the NCAA Tournament's final eight. Norman Nolan put up decent numbers as a sophomore, but he couldn't fill the void. For one thing, he consistently drew an opponent's best frontcourt defender because center Chris Alexander wasn't a scorer. Now, Alexander is gone, as is would-be successor Melvin Whitaker, a touted recruit who pleaded guilty to a felony charge of malicious wounding. Coach Jeff Jones and his staff made the most of a seemingly desperate situation with the late addition of promising recruits Kris Hunter and Craig McAndrew. McAndrew must sit out six to eight games because he played on an Australian team that had pro players. Also back is mechanical 7-4 sophomore Chase Metheney, who announced he would transfer, then returned in late August.

Backcourt: The Cavaliers, whose guards were rated among the best in the country before last season, haven't lost anybody and have added high school All-American Willie Dersch and transfer Monte Marcaccini from Pepperdine. Swingman Courtney Alexander got better and better over the course of his freshman season and has the potential to be a big-time player. The Cavaliers frequently used Alexander in a three-guard alignment with Harold Deane and Curtis Staples, both of whom fought season-long shooting slumps. Although he is expected to play this season, Deane took a leave of absence over the summer that gave swingman Jamal Robinson an opportunity to play on a team trip to Belgium and France.

Key to success: Virginia got little production out of its frontcourt last year and will rely heavily on young, untested prospects this year. It can't be a comforting thought to coach Jeff Jones that Metheney or one of the freshmen will have to start against a glamour field in the season-opening Maui Invitational.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Staples, who averaged 14.0 points last season, is part of a tremendous group of guards at Virginia.

Outlook: The Cavaliers have had a number of distractions since the end of last season, including the arrest of three players and a recruit. Gone are three of the four players in the 1995-96 freshman class, but the best of those recruits (Courtney Alexander) remains, and there is talent in the backcourt. If they can keep their focus, the Cavaliers are a team that should get better as the season progresses.

CAVALIERS DATA

Coach: Jeff Jones (117-72, 6 years; 6-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-15. ACC: 6-10/7th.
Starters lost (1): Chris Alexander, C/F (5.9 rpg, 1.8 spg, 30.0 mpg).
Others lost: Scott Johnson, F (2.9 rpg, 14.3 mpg; transfer/South Florida); Darryl Presley, F (transfer/Delaware); Maurice Watkins, F/G.
Starters returning (4): Courtney Alexander, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (13.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 26.9 mpg); Harold Deane, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.7 spg, 80.8 FT%, 35.6 mpg); Norman Nolan, F, 6-8/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 45.3 FG%, 28.6 mpg); Curtis Staples, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.0 spg, 80.0 FT%, 35.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Mike Curtis, G, 6-3/Jr.; Peter McLaughlin, G, 6-2/Jr.; Chase Metheney, C, 7-4/Soph. (2.1 rpg, 8.0 mpg); Jamal Robinson, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 2.5 apg, 45.6 FG%, 23.8 mpg); Martin Walton, F, 6-9/Sr.
Top newcomers: Willie Dersch, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Colin Ducharme, F, 6-8/Fr.; Kris Hunter, C, 6-10/Fr.; Monte Marcaccini, F/G, 6-5/Soph. (transfer/Pepperdine); Craig McAndrew, F/C, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Charlottesville, Va. **Home court:** University Hall (8,457).

8. MARYLAND

Frontcourt: Coach Gary Williams has no doubts that Keith Booth can make the transition to small forward after three years in the post. The issue is whether Williams can depend on Rodney Elliott or Brian Watkins at power forward. Elliott was up and down last year, scoring 15 and 13 points in consecutive games in February, then going scoreless in two of his next four outings. But he is more proven than Watkins, who averaged 1.5 points and 1.8 rebounds two years ago for Notre Dame. The center is Obinna Ekezie, who was better than expected early, then leveled off. Ekezie, who played soccer in his native Nigeria, has a big body but needs work in the finesse aspects of the game. Freshman Mike Mardesich is the first 7-footer who'll see action for the Terps.

Backcourt: The Terrapins knew they had their backcourt of the future when 6-6 Laron Profit made all four of his 3-pointers and scored 19 points in an 82-69 victory over Duke in the opening round of the ACC Tournament. Terrell Stokes already had established himself as a worthy successor to Duane Simpkins at the point. Stokes played in all 30 games and had a 2.1-1 assist-to-turnover ratio, but he needs to improve his range and his foul shooting. Lithuanian product Sarunas Jasikevicius made 20 3-pointers last season, tops among Maryland's returnees.

Key to success: Other than Booth, none of Maryland's returning players averaged more than 5.7 points and none of the recruits is considered a big scorer. The Terrapins feel Profit has the potential to score, given his 9.2 average over the last 10 games, but somebody else has to put points on the board.

Outlook: Although the Terrapins were a disappointment last year—finishing in a tie for fourth after being picked for first—nobody would be disappointed with a fourth-place tie this year. Obviously, Maryland had more talent last year, but four seniors, several experiencing mediocre seasons, weren't easy to coach. Williams may have more fun with this group.

TERRAPINS DATA

Coach: Gary Williams (122-90, 7 years; 329-218 overall, 17 years; 8-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-13. ACC: 8-8/T4th. Lost to Santa Clara in NCAA West first round.
Starters lost (3): Exree Hipp, F (6.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 22.1 mpg); Johnny Rhodes, G (16.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 3.3 apg, **3.7 spg**, 47.8 FG%, 33.3 mpg); Duane Simpkins, G (12.2 ppg, 4.4 apg, 1.0 spg, 45.8 FG%, **84.5 FT%**, 45.0 3-pt%, 28.9 mpg).
Others lost: Mario Lucas, F (10.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 22.2 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Keith Booth, F, 6-6/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.4 spg, 75.7 FT%, 31.8 mpg); Obinna Ekezie, C, 6-9/Soph. (4.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 15.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Rodney Elliott, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 13.4 mpg); Norman Fields, G, 6-0/Soph.; Sarunas Jasikevicius, G, 6-4/Jr. (3.9 ppg, 45.5 3-pt%, 9.6 mpg); Matt Kovarik, G, 6-4/Jr.; Laron Profit, G, 6-6/Soph. (5.7 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.5 spg, 48.2 FG%, 75.6 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 13.6 mpg); Matt Raydo, G, 5-10/Sr.; Terrell Stokes, G, 6-0/Soph. (3.3 ppg, 2.8 apg, 1.3 spg, 47.0 FG%, 17.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kelly Hite, G, 6-4/Fr.; Mike Mardesich, C, 7-0/Fr.; Brian Watkins, F, 6-9/Soph. (transfer/Notre Dame).
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: College Park, Md. **Home court:** Cole Field House (14,500).

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

9. N.C. STATE

Frontcourt: The Wolfpack didn't have a second power player to complement All-ACC center Todd Fuller last year, and now Fuller is gone. Marco Harrison showed signs of promise after missing the first four games, but he transferred to a Division II program to be closer to his girlfriend. Danny Strong is an ACC-caliber wing player who made 73 3-pointers last year, but he will need to improve his rebounding. The only height comes in the form of 6-11 Steve Norton, who began his career at Furman and played in only 11 games last year as Fuller's backup.

Backcourt: Ishua Benjamin, the leading vote-getter on the ACC All-Freshman team in 1994-95, never approached his rookie form after sitting out the first four games of last season for academic reasons. Nevertheless, he was the Wolfpack's third-leading scorer behind Fuller and Strong and is joined by Jeremy Hyatt and C.C. Harrison in an experienced guard crew. Hyatt, who will see a lot of time at small forward, was fourth on the team in scoring, fourth in rebounds, third in assists, first in steals and second in blocks. He doesn't get the credit he deserves.

Key to success: State needs to find somebody—anybody—who can get a rebound or guard an opposing post player. Al Pinkins could help if the NCAA upholds his appeal for a hardship appeal and grants him eligibility for the second semester, but he's only 6-6. Look for the Wolfpack to take an early look at frontcourt recruits Damon Thornton, Tim Wells and Andre McCullum, though none is taller than 6-7.

Outlook: New coach Herb Sendek can take heart in the job done by Rick Barnes in his first year at Clemson, when an undersized team picked for last in the ACC went 15-13 in 1994-95 and played in the NIT. Sendek comes highly recommended, but don't count on the Wolfpack posting a winning record, which would be their first in six years. Former coach Les Robinson, who resigned, had to know what was coming.

WOLFPACK DATA

Coach: Herb Sendek (1st year; 63-26 overall, 3 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-16. ACC: 3-13/9th.
Starters lost (2): Todd Fuller, C (**20.9 ppg**, 9.9 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 50.6 FG%, 79.9 FT%, 37.2 3-pt%, 33.7 mpg); Curtis Marshall, G (7.7 ppg, 3.5 apg, 1.1 spg, 41.9 FG%, 70.5 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 25.7 mpg).
Others lost: Marco Harrison, F (5.8 ppg, 19.6 mpg; transfer/St. Paul's, Va.); Tino Hunter, F (quit team); Geoff Richards, F; Marcus Wilson, F (4.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 19.0 mpg).
Starters returning (3): C.C. Harrison, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 19.6 mpg); Jeremy Hyatt, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.5 spg, 75.3 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 28.7 mpg); Danny Strong, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.2 spg, 38.6 3-pt%, 25.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Ishua Benjamin, G, 6-5/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 73.7 FT%, 24.7 mpg); Luke Buffum, F, 6-6/Soph.; Bill Kretzer, F, 6-9/Sr.; Steve Norton, C, 6-11/Jr.; Al Pinkins, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 40.3 3-pt%, 19.2 mpg; eligible for first semester and may be eligibile for second); Jason Sutton, G, 6-3/Sr. (3.4 ppg, 35.4 3-pt%, 11.4 mpg); Ivan Wagner, G, 6-1/Soph. (9.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Justin Gainey, G, 6-0/Fr.; Andre McCullum, F, 6-6/Fr.; Damon Thornton, F, 6-7/Fr.; Tim Wells, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Raleigh, N.C. **Home court:** Reynolds Coliseum (12,400). ◆

Doug Doughty covers the ACC and college sports for the Roanoke (Va.) Times.

SCOUTING THE ACC

Ascending: Clemson. Eight Tigers averaged 20 minutes or more last season and a ninth, redshirt Iker Iturbe, averaged more than 20 minutes in 1994-95. All are back.

Descending: Maryland. If the Terps get back to the NCAA Tournament for the fourth year in a row, it might be Gary Williams' greatest coaching accomplishment. Good thing Maryland gets to play North Carolina State twice.

Biggest sneakers to fill: N.C. State center Todd Fuller's. Fuller led the ACC in scoring, finished second in rebounding and was an NBA first-round pick. He was the main reason the Wolfpack won 15 games last year. Steve Norton has similar size (6-11, 247) but played a total of two minutes in two ACC games after transferring from Furman. State does not have another scholarship player over 6-7.

Most underrated player: Duke swingman Ricky Price. Price has been a player in search of a role for two years. He scored in double figures in Duke's final 13 games last year, had a career-high 28 points against Virginia and hit the game-winner at the buzzer against Maryland.

Most overrated player: Florida State forward Corey Louis. Many predicted greatness for Louis after his promising freshman season, but he flopped as a sophomore. His scoring and rebounding averages were way down and he shot 42.4 percent from the field, woeful for an inside player. Two regular-season suspensions suggest off-court problems.

Coach on a hot seat: Florida State's Pat Kennedy. Kennedy had one losing season (14-15 in 1985-86 at Iona) in his first 13 seasons as a college coach but is coming off three consecutive seasons and he could not hide his interest in the St. John's job last spring. FSU officials would not have been devastated if he had gotten it.

Best bets: Wake Forest, the first team since North Carolina in 1981-82 to win back-to-back ACC tournaments, will make it three years in a row. But all bets are off if point guard Tony Rutland can't play. ... Duke, with better guards and a deeper bench, will go further than the Deacs in the NCAA tourney. ... North Carolina will make it 27 years in a row with at least 20 victories. ... Free-throw shooting will be a problem for the Tar Heels, especially Antawn Jamison (52.6 percent from the line last season). ... First-year N.C. State coach Herb Sendek will win admirers, but few games. The Wolfpack will become the first ACC team to have six consecutive losing seasons since Clemson from 1968-73. ... Maryland senior Keith Booth will lead the ACC in scoring and have more than 500 field-goal attempts, if the Terrapins know what's good for them.

Odds and ends: North Carolina's roster includes players from the Netherlands (Serge Zwikker), Germany (Ademola Okulaja), Senegal (Makhtar Ndiaye), Bulgaria (Vassil Evtimov) and Panama (Ed Cota). Other ACC teams have players from Spain, Lithuania, Australia, Nigeria and the Ivory Coast. ... North Carolina is the second ACC stop for Ndiaye, who originally signed with Wake Forest and was enrolled in the fall of 1993. He was declared ineligible to play for the Deacons while the NCAA investigated possible recruiting violations and was allowed to play immediately for Michigan. He remained there through the 1994-95 season. ... Ndiaye is one of four transfers from Division I schools who become eligible this year, joining Duke junior Roshown McLeod (St. John's), Maryland sophomore Brian Watkins (Notre Dame) and Virginia sophomore Monte Marcaccini (Pepperdine). Marcaccini played in Italy for a year after high school. ... After four players made the jump in 1995, North Carolina junior guard Jeff McInnis and Georgia Tech freshman guard Stephon Marbury were the only ACC underclassmen to turn pro after last season. Marbury and N.C. State's Todd Fuller were the only first-round picks from the ACC, which produced eight in 1995. ... Aside from Wake's Tim Duncan, it's tough to say that any of this year's seniors will go in the '97 first round. Two of the league's best pro prospects are sophomores Antawn Jamison of North Carolina and Courtney Alexander of Virginia, but both need more seasoning. ... Duncan, incidentally, had more turnovers (104) last year than any other returning ACC player. ... A good indication that all is not rosy at Maryland was coach Gary Williams' decision not to renew the contract of longtime assistant Art Perry. Perry was the assistant responsible for recruiting Joe Smith, but Maryland's recruiting has dropped off in recent years. ... When Georgia Tech coach Bobby Cremins settles on a starting lineup, don't expect it to change. Cremins started the same lineup in 35 of 36 games last year, making an exception only for senior John Kelly in his final home game. ... Virginia junior Curtis Staples leads active ACC players in career 3-pointers with 185. He is followed by three seniors—teammate Harold Deane (184), Florida State's James Collins (180) and Duke's Jeff Capel (168). ◆

—DOUG DOUGHTY

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Duke (F Nate James). The Blue Devils brought in three highly touted forwards.
2. Florida State (G Devonaire Deas).
3. North Carolina (G Ed Cota).
4. Clemson (G/F Vincent Whitt).
5. Wake Forest (C Loren Woods).
6. Georgia Tech (G Kevin Morris).
7. Virginia (G Willie Dersch).
8. Maryland (C Mike Mardesich).
9. N.C. State (F Andre McCullum).

SEC

Conference Rank: 2

By Rusty Hampton and Mike Strange

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

EASTERN DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
1. KENTUCKY	1. ARKANSAS
2. S.CAROLINA	2. AUBURN
3. TENNESSEE	3. ALABAMA
4. GEORGIA	4. MISSISSIPPI ST.
5. VANDERBILT	5. LSU
6. FLORIDA	6. MISSISSIPPI

ALL-SEC TEAM

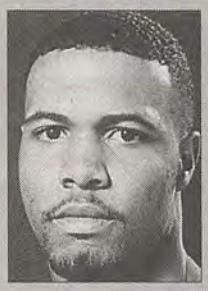
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, school	Ht./Wt.	Class
C	PAT BURKE, Auburn	6-11/250	Sr.
G	LARRY DAVIS, South Carolina	6-3/190	Sr.
F	RON MERCER, Kentucky	6-7/208	Soph.
G	KAREEM REID, Arkansas	5-10/165	Soph.
F	ERIC WASHINGTON, Alabama	6-4/185	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, school	Ht./Wt.	Class
G/F	DEREK ANDERSON, Kentucky	6-4/195	Sr.
G	WES FLANIGAN, Auburn	6-1/180	Sr.
F	DEREK HOOD, Arkansas	6-8/210	Soph.
F	LeRON WILLIAMS, Florida	6-7/225	Jr.
C	LEE WILSON, Arkansas	6-11/260	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



RON MERCER, F, Kentucky

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

HORATIO WEBSTER, F, Mississippi State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Pat Bradley, Arkansas.
Best rebounder: Pat Burke, Auburn.
Best playmaker: Wes Flanigan, Auburn.
Best defender: Derek Anderson, Kentucky.
Best leaper: Eric Washington, Alabama.
Best under 6 foot: Kareem Reid, Arkansas.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Wes Flanigan, Auburn.
Most flamboyant: Brian Williams, Alabama.
Best NBA prospect: Ron Mercer, Kentucky.

EASTERN DIVISION

1. KENTUCKY

Frontcourt: If you wondered at the time why Rick Pitino was so pleased to give Jared Prickett a medical redshirt last year, it's obvious now. Without the fifth-year senior, Kentucky may have been forced to run a four-guard offense around swingman Ron Mercer. The 'Cats knew they were losing Walter McCarty and Mark Pope, but Antoine Walker's decision to turn pro after his sophomore year was a blow. Mercer, considered by many to be the nation's top prep in 1994-95, was content to blend in most of his freshman season, but he showed his true colors (a career-high 20 points) in the NCAA title game. Prickett has started occasionally and is fundamentally solid. Scott Padgett could return from academic banishment in the second semester to provide reserve help, along with Oliver Simmons. Touted freshman Jamaal Magloire better be ready because the only other center, Nazr Mohammed, looks like a role player. At least Mohammed has made strides to streamline his teddy-bear physique.

Backcourt: Even without Tony Delk, this department is loaded again, which is good news for the Pitino full-court pressure defense. Athletic Jeff Sheppard, a star on virtually any other team in the country, started only one game last year. Anthony Epps, though not as spectacular as his backcourt mates, has proved too steady at the point not to play, Derek Anderson is a tiger at both ends of the court and offensively gifted Wayne Turner is a threat to unseat Epps. Come to think of it, a four-guard offense doesn't sound bad.

Keys to success: Mercer and Anderson must be every-night leaders, not role players. Prickett not only can't afford to be rusty, he better be ready to go out in a blaze of glory.

Outlook: Kentucky doesn't have the plethora of talent to finish first *and* second in the division this year, but it has plenty to finish first. Considering the 'Cats' losses to the NBA, even the most rabid Big Blue fans shouldn't begrudge Pitino if he doesn't win back-to-back NCAA titles. But Kentucky could be in Indianapolis.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Rick Pitino (184-45, 7 years; 317-119 overall, 14 years; 21-6 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '96).
1995-96 record: 34-2. SEC East: 16-0/1st. Beat Syracuse in NCAA final.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Anderson is one of only two returning starters at Kentucky. No matter: The 'Cats still are loaded, especially in the backcourt. That means Kentucky's full-court pressure defense again should be effective.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Starters lost (3): Tony Delk, G (17.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.8 apg, 1.9 spg, 49.4 FG%, **80.0 FT%**, 44.3 3-pt%, 26.3 mpg); Walter McCarty, F (11.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 1.4 bpg, 54.3 FG%, 72.1 FT%, 46.7 3-pt%, 24.7 mpg); Antoine Walker, F (15.2 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.7 spg, 46.3 FG%, 27.0 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: Mark Pope, C (7.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, 1.2 bpg, 48.2 FG%, 35.6 3-pt%, 19.9 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Derek Anderson, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 50.9 FG%, 78.4 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 19.5 mpg); Anthony Epps, G, 6-2/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 4.9 apg, 1.5 spg, 81.7 FT%, 41.0 3-pt%, 22.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Allen Edwards, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (46.3 FG%, 73.9 FT%, 9.3 mpg); Ron Mercer, F, 6-7/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 45.7 FG%, 78.5 FT%, 18.8 mpg); Cameron Mills, G, 6-3/Jr.; Nazr Mohammed, C, 6-10/Soph.; Scott Padgett, F, 6-9/Soph. (RS/academics; could return for second semester); Jared Prickett, F, 6-9/Sr. (RS/knee); Jeff Sheppard, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 52.0 FG%, 50.0 3-pt%, 12.8 mpg); Oliver Simmons, F, 6-8/Soph.; Wayne Turner, G, 6-2/Soph. (4.5 ppg, 1.1 spg, 53.3 FG%, 13.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jamaal Magloire, C, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Lexington, Ky. **Home court:** Rupp Arena (23,000).

2. SOUTH CAROLINA

Frontcourt: The only contributor missing from last year's squad is Malik Russell, who didn't score much but was the leading rebounder. Center Nate Wilbourne had a nice season going until he injured an ankle and never really recovered. Sophomore Bud Johnson is a defensive stopper whose offense should improve in time. Ryan Stack, even at 6-11, can play small forward, and there also is athletic sophomore William Gallman. Coach Eddie Fogler can use various combinations of those four, as the situation requires, to complement his three-guard attack.
Backcourt: If college basketball were a 3-on-3 game, Carolina would contend for the national title. Senior Larry Davis, junior Melvin Watson and sophomore BJ McKie might be the best three-guard lineup in the land. Davis can fill it up, while Watson and McKie can score or create for others. McKie was the most productive freshman in the league last year and could be the best player in Columbia since Alex English. Watson, who can play point or off-guard, toiled through nagging injuries most of last season and should be even better as his health returns. Depth is good, too.
Key to success: The Gamecocks must become road warriors. They were 16-2 at home last season, but only 1-8 on the road. Defense and interior scoring may be a problem, too.
Outlook: With 94 percent of its offense back, South Carolina is a shoo-in for 20 wins, at least second place in the SEC East and its first NCAA bid this decade.

GAMECOCKS DATA

Coach: Eddie Fogler (38-48, 3 years; 180-128 overall, 10 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-12. SEC East: 8-8/3rd. Lost to Alabama in NIT third round.
Starters lost (1): Malik Russell, F (7.6 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.3 spg, 55.9 FG%, 30.7 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (4): Larry Davis, G, 6-3/Sr. (18.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.8 spg, 45.0 FG%, 77.4 FT%, 35.5 3-pt%, 33.3 mpg); BJ McKie, G, 6-2/Soph. (15.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 46.7 FG%, 76.2 FT%, 35.0 3-pt%, 32.3 mpg); Melvin Watson, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.3 spg, 45.0 FG%, 74.0 FT%, 31.8 mpg); Nate Wilbourne, C, 6-11/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 49.6 FG%, 24.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Arthur Carlisle, F, 6-5/Soph.; George Formanek, C, 6-11/Sr.; William Gallman, F, 6-7/Soph. (50.6 FG%, 8.8 mpg); Bud Johnson, F/C, 6-10/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 54.5 FG%, 20.8 mpg); Ryan Stack, F, 6-11/Jr. (4.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 50.6 FG%, 13.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Herbert Lee Davis, F/G, 6-5/Fr.; Antonio Grant, F, 6-5/Fr.; Hagen Rouse, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS).
Last league title: 1970 (ACC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Columbia, S.C. **Home court:** Frank McGuire Arena (12,401).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina's Watson, a junior, is a key component in his team's highly rated backcourt.

3. TENNESSEE

Frontcourt: Charles Hathaway, possibly Tennessee's best recruit since Bernard King, couldn't have arrived at a better time. The prep All-American checks in just as 7-footer Steve Hamer checks out. Hamer not only was a fierce rebounder, but at times he was the Vols' only offensive threat. Coach Kevin O'Neill signed two other quality big men in forwards C.J. Black and Isiah Victor. All three freshmen are potential starters. Torrey Harris, last year's good defense/no offense forward, had a great offseason.
Backcourt: Brandon Wharton was one of the impact freshmen in the league last season and one of its best streak shooters. He'll operate primarily on the wing this year, turning over point guard responsibilities to JC transfer DaShay Jones. Wharton and Aaron Green ranked among the top 12 3-point marksmen in the SEC last year. That, O'Neill hopes, will spread defenses enough to give Hathaway room to operate. Late signee Vegas Davis will push Green and Rashard Lee for a starting job. Freshman Cornelius Jackson adds to the excellent depth.
Keys to success: Hamer's points must be replaced (and then some) on the SEC's lowest-scoring club. Hathaway and Black must avoid being intimidated in the paint.
Outlook: A tremendous recruiting class upgrades the talent level and makes the Vols a future contender. But inexperience almost surely will take a toll. With the exception of Jones, this is a team of sophomores and freshmen. Third place is up for grabs in the East. The Vols could claim it—or they could finish sixth.

VOLUNTEERS DATA

Coach: Kevin O'Neill (26-30, 2 years; 130-103 overall, 8 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 14-15. SEC East: 6-10/T5th. Lost to College of Charleston in NIT first round.
Starters lost (3): Steve Hamer, C (18.2 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 1.0 apg, 1.4 bpg, **57.5 FG%**, 33.0 mpg); Damon Johnson, F (9.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.3 spg, 33.4 mpg); Shane Williams, G (8.2 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.2 spg, 37.9 3-pt%, 37.2 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Torrey Harris, F, 6-10/Soph. (14.4 mpg); Brandon Wharton, G, 6-3/Soph. (12.6 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.8 apg, 74.8 FT%, 39.7 3-pt%, 35.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Aaron Green, G, 6-2/Soph. (6.8 ppg, 39.3 3-pt%, 20.1 mpg); Antonio Harris, G, 6-3/Soph.; Rashard Lee, F/G, 6-6/Soph. (10.6 mpg); Scott Moore, C, 6-11/Soph. (8.7 mpg); Maurice Robertson, F, 6-5/Soph. (13.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: C.J. Black, F, 6-8/Fr.; Vegas Davis, G, 6-3/Fr.; Charles Hathaway, C, 6-10/Fr.; Cornelius Jackson, G,

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Shannon started all 28 games at point guard as a true freshman for the Gators last season.

6-5/Fr.; DaShay Jones, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Isiah Victor, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1982 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Knoxville, Tenn. **Home court:** Thompson-Boling Arena (24,535).

4. GEORGIA

Frontcourt: Buy a program, because there aren't any familiar faces. Sophomore forward Jon Nordin ranks as the veteran, and he averaged 10 minutes a game off the bench last year. Coach Tubby Smith, who started the same five seniors in 30 of 31 games last year, went junior college shopping to rebuild his frontcourt. Lorenzo Hall is the likely candidate to start at center and fellow JC transfer Devin Baker should step in at one forward. JC signee Derrick Dukes, who might remind Bulldogs fans of Shandon Anderson, could end up at the other forward, and the staff likes freshman forward Badi Oliver. There are two 7-foot newcomers, but neither figures to be a factor.

Backcourt: Ray Harrison started the NCAA Tournament game against Clemson because Pertha Robinson was sick, so that makes Harrison the only Bulldog with a start under his belt. He's the one guy assured of starting. Wing man Michael Chadwick and point man G.G. Smith, the coach's son, got some exposure as freshmen, but neither is a sure thing to start. Phenizee Ransom, a transfer who sat out last year, will compete for the off-guard job, as will freshman Adrian Jones, a high-scoring prepster out of Atlanta.

Key to success: Tubby Smith inherited a ready-made lineup when he arrived last year, but now he has to show his touch at designing one from the nine newcomers on campus.

Outlook: This is a rebuilding job, but with the Eastern Division down, the Bulldogs are hardly writing the year off. If the four JC transfers deliver, Georgia, which has good size, will battle for third place.

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Tubby Smith (21-10, 1 year; 100-53 overall, 5 years; 6-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-10. SEC East: 9-7/2nd. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA West semifinals.
Starters lost (5): Shandon Anderson, F (14.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.8 spg, 53.8 FG%, 28.7 mpg); Terrell Bell, C (6.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.7 bpg, 50.0 FG%, 23.5 mpg); Katu Davis, G (15.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.9 apg, **2.3 spg**, 76.5 FT%, 38.0 3-pt%, 28.9 mpg); Pertha Robinson, G (8.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.8 apg, 1.9 spg, 49.0 FG%, 70.6 FT%, **44.5 3-pt%**, 27.5 mpg); Carlos Strong, F (13.5 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.1 spg, 45.2 FG%, 27.8 mpg).
Others lost: Steve Jones, F (13.1 mpg); Kris Nordholz, G; Brian Peterson, G.
Starters returning: None.
Other returnees: Larry Brown, F, 6-5/Jr.; Michael Chadwick, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (9.3 mpg); Ray Harrison, G, 6-3/Soph. (6.3 ppg, 1.3 spg, 74.1 FT%, 18.2 mpg); Jon Nordin, F, 6-8/Soph. (10.4 mpg); G.G. Smith, G, 5-10/Soph. (10.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Devin Baker, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Eric DeYoung, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC); Robb Dryden, C, 7-1/Fr.; Derrick Dukes, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Lorenzo Hall, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Adrian Jones, G, 6-5/Fr.; Badi Oliver, F, 6-8/Fr.; Phenizee Ransom, G, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Winston-Salem State); David Taylor, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1990.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Athens, Ga. **Home court:** Stegeman Coliseum (10,523).

5. VANDERBILT

Frontcourt: The Commodores hoped to shore up their inside game last year, but it didn't happen. Vandy ranked last in the league in rebounding in '95-96 and has lost its best boardman in Malik Evans, who also was the team's top frontcourt scorer. Pax Whitehead and Billy Di Spaltro are a serviceable combination at power forward. Di Spaltro will draw the tough defensive assignments in the paint. Whitehead had some offseason difficulties but is expected to be back in good graces. Center appears to be a problem again, with 6-9 Austin Bates and 6-8 Gianni Cugini as the options. Dan Langhi, a 6-9 freshman with perimeter skills, is sure to play at small forward.

Backcourt: Frank Seckar, one of the more productive backcourt players in the league, leaves leadership and 3-point shooting voids. Athletic point guard Howard Pride had a tough year with injuries. Coach Jan van Breda Kolff has his fingers crossed that Pride can stay healthy because Vandy's backcourt badly needs Pride's defensive skills. The Commodores ranked last in the SEC in field-goal and 3-point field-goal defense last year. Off-guard Drew Maddux leads the returnees in most statistical categories, but he's hardly a defensive stopper. Freshmen Atiba Prater and James Strong bring much-needed quickness to the perimeter.

Keys to success: Vandy's defense, expected to be a van Breda Kolff priority, took a backward step last winter. The Commodores need to reverse that slide; perhaps better depth and quickness will help. In the paint, someone—be it Bates, Cugini or Di Spaltro—needs to take his game up a level, and this year's freshmen must have more of an impact than last year's group.

Outlook: Considering injuries and a gaping hole at center, Vandy did well to finish fourth in the East and win 18 games last year. A repeat performance on either count will be tough without serious help from the freshmen.

COMMODORES DATA

Coach: Jan van Breda Kolff (51-41, 3 years; 74-70 overall, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 18-14. SEC East: 7-9/4th. Lost to South Carolina in NIT second round.
Starters lost (2): Malik Evans, F (12.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 53.1 FG%, 1.1 bpg, 30.0 mpg); Frank Seckar, G (16.3 ppg, 5.5 apg, 2.0 spg, 74.1 FG%, 37.9 3-pt%, 37.6 mpg).
Others lost: Chad Sheron, F (8.2 mpg); Markese Watkins, F (left school).
Starters returning (3): Austin Bates, C, 6-9/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 17.7 mpg); Drew Maddux, G, 6-4/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.2 spg, 76.4 FT%, 34.6 3-pt%, 35.7 mpg); Howard Pride, G, 6-3/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 3.1 apg, 70.5 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 24.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Gianni Cugini, C, 6-8/Soph. (3.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 16.7 mpg); Billy Di Spaltro, F, 6-9/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 59.1 FG%, 74.1 FT%, 20.2 mpg); Vince Ford, G, 6-4/Soph. (3.2 ppg, 8.3 mpg); Pax Whitehead, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 72.5 FT%, 24.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Charlie Bennett, F, 6-8/Fr.; Dan Langhi, F, 6-9/Fr.; Atiba Prater, G, 6-1/Fr.; James Strong, G, 6-2/Fr.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Nashville, Tenn. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (15,311).

6. FLORIDA

Frontcourt: The Gators missed Andrew DeClercq's ferocity in the paint last year, and now they'll miss Dametri Hill's soft touch and girth. Forward LeRon Williams, the most improved player on last year's team, is the best of the frontcourt, and there's no reason to think he won't continue to show the form that made him Florida's prep player of the year in 1993-94. But who will complement him in the paint? Greg Stolt is more of a face-the-basket shooter. Spindly John Griffiths is the only "veteran" center, so expect the newcomers—namely redshirt freshman Greg Cristell, who is recovered from knee surgery, and true freshman Obiora Nnaji, a native of Nigeria who played prep ball in Orlando—to pitch in. Jason Anderson, a mobile forward, has been given the chance to rejoin the team after being kicked off last season and could be useful in new coach Billy Donovan's go-go attack.

Backcourt: Eddie Shannon took over the point as a freshman, starting all 28 games, and should have the jitters out of his system. Greg Williams, the only contributor left from the 1994 Final Four team, did not have nearly the junior season expected of him. As a senior, it will be interesting to see how he handles the transition to Donovan's pedal-to-the-metal tempo. A lot will be asked of Williams and Shannon—pushing the ball upcourt, setting traps on defense. The bench isn't exactly bursting with help. Dan Williams has been around and newcomer Kenyan Weaks was explosive in high school.

Key to success: Conditioning. The Gators were accustomed to hard work under Lon Kruger, but not at the tempo Donovan's Rick Pitino-ball system demands. The key players have to make a commitment to being able to run for close to 40 minutes because depth is suspect.

Outlook: Unlike Tubby Smith at Georgia last year, Donovan doesn't inherit a senior lineup. And unlike Pitino when he took over Kentucky with suspect talent, Donovan can't count on 23,000 screaming fans every night to inspire his weary warriors to overachieve. Postseason play isn't likely.

GATORS DATA

Coach: Billy Donovan (1st year; 35-20 overall, 2 years).

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1995-96 record: 12-16. SEC East: 6-10/T5th.
Starters lost (2): Dametri Hill, C/F (17.6 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 48.9 FG%, 33.0 mpg); Brian Thompson, F (7.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 49.7 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 27.6 mpg).
Others lost: Clayton Bates, G; Antrone Lee, F (transfer/Long Beach State).
Starters returning (3): Eddie Shannon, G, 5-11/Soph. (8.6 ppg, 3.7 apg, 1.7 spg, 71.4 FT%, 31.1 mpg); Greg Williams, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 5.0 apg, 1.3 spg, 32.7 mpg); LeRon Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.0 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 22.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Jason Anderson, F, 6-4/Sr. (RS/discipline); John Griffiths, C, 6-10/Sr.; Mike MacFarland, G, 6-2/Soph.; Damen Maddox, C, 6-8/Jr.; Joel Reinhart, F, 6-5/Sr.; Kendrick Spruel, F, 6-8/Soph.; Greg Stolt, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 36.0 3-pt%, 19.8 mpg); Dan Williams, G, 6-3/Jr. (42.4 3-pt%, 12.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Greg Cristell, C, 6-10/Fr. (RS/knee); Obiora Nnaji, C, 6-11/Fr.; Kenyan Weaks, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Gainesville, Fla. **Home court:** O'Connell Center (12,000).

WESTERN DIVISION

1. ARKANSAS

Frontcourt: Darnell Robinson's early departure for the NBA leaves Lee Wilson as the only true center on the team. Derek Hood is solid at power forward, while the small forward spot will be manned by Landis Williams when the Hogs go big or Marlon Towns when coach Nolan Richardson opts for a three-guard attack. Nicky Davis, who's academically ineligible the first semester, and Ali Thompson are other possibilities at forward.
Backcourt: The Hogs have a good one-two punch in Kareem Reid at the point and Pat Bradley at shooting guard. Both started last year as freshmen. Reid set a school record for assists and Bradley made more 3-pointers than any freshman in school history. Heralded freshman Glendon Alexander, who may be sidelined by eligibility problems, and JC transfer Tarik Wallace will challenge Bradley. Reid and Towns begin fall practice on indefinite suspension, the result of an offseason arrest for smoking marijuana. Their status with Richardson is unknown, but don't expect them to miss many games, if any.
Keys to success: Wilson must develop into a consistent force inside, and the newcomers must add some perimeter punch to a team that was woefully lacking in that area last season.
Outlook: Look for a return to the days of Richardson's Runts, the 1993 team that was small, quick and defined the "40 minutes of hell" style Richardson loves. Depth could be a problem, especially at Richardson's tempo. A plus is the schedule: The Hogs play just three non-conference road games, and Kentucky comes to Fayetteville. After last year's surprising trip to the Sweet 16, look for Arkansas to win the Western Division title and make another trip to the NCAA Tournament.

RAZORBACKS DATA

Coach: Nolan Richardson (273-84, 11 years; 392-131 overall, 16 years; 24-11 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '94).
1995-96 record: 20-13. SEC West: 9-7/T2nd. Lost to Massachusetts in NCAA East semifinals.
Starters lost (2): Sunday Adebayo, F (10.5 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 57.2 FG%, 26.1 mpg; transfer/Memphis); Darnell Robinson, C (12.7 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 45.7 FG%, 25.0 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: John Engskov, G; Antwon Hall, G (9.4 mpg; transfer/Central Oklahoma); Reggie Merritt, G; Jesse Pate, G (13.4 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.2 spg, 71.6 FT%, 25.1 mpg; ruled ineligible).
Starters returning (3): Pat Bradley, G, 6-2/Soph. (10.2 ppg, 76.5 FT%, 41.4 3-pt%, 24.0 mpg); Derek Hood, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 21.7 mpg); Kareem Reid, G, 5-10/Soph. (12.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 6.6 apg, 2.0 spg, 33.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Nicky Davis, F, 6-9/Jr. (2.7 rpg, 10.7 mpg); Ali Thompson, F, 6-5/Soph. (10.7 mpg); Marlon Towns, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 1.0 spg, 19.4 mpg); Landis Williams, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (4.1 ppg, 50.6 FG%, 11.9 mpg); Lee Wilson, C, 6-11/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 53.1 FG%, 18.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Glendon Alexander, G, 6-5/Fr.; Steve Green, G, 6-2/Fr.; Tarik Wallace, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1987.
Site: Fayetteville, Ark. **Home court:** Walton Arena (19,200).

2. AUBURN

Frontcourt: The Tigers have proven talent and young depth. Pat Burke is the top returning center in the league, and Franklin Williams returns at one forward. The other spot is up for grabs. When coach Cliff Ellis goes "small," he can use veterans Bryant Smith or Derek Caldwell or newcomer Daymeon Fishback at small forward. When the Tigers go big, Ellis can choose between veterans Alvin Jefferson and Adrian Chilliest and newcomer Jeremy Beasley.
Backcourt: Wes Flanigan received shocking news in the spring when he was diagnosed with bone cancer in his left arm. But after surgery and treatment during the summer, Flanigan vows to play his senior season. He might end up at shooting guard, with ballyhooed freshman Julius "Doc" Robinson taking over at the point. JC transfer Michael Spruell or Fishback, Kentucky's Mr. Basketball last season, provide good depth. Smith, Caldwell and Earnest Brown also figure in the mix.
Keys to success: Flanigan's return, the ability of Fishback, Robinson and Spruell to adjust quickly to Division I ball and the continued improvement of Burke and Williams inside.
Outlook: The arrival of what's considered a top 10 recruiting class and last year's trip to the NIT have raised expectations to levels not seen on The Plains since the mid-1980s. The Tigers will play hard, push the ball and should challenge for the Western Division title and an NCAA bid.

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Cliff Ellis (19-42, 2 years—Auburn forfeited all 16 wins in 1994-95; 367-254 overall, 21 years; 3-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-13. SEC West: 6-10/T4th. Lost to Tulane in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Ray Donald, G (8.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.1 spg, 89.7 FT%, 36.6 3-pt%, 23.5 mpg); Lance Weems, G (13.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 70.6 FT%, 38.7 3-pt%, 30.3 mpg).
Others lost: Reid Clark, G; Mike Springfield, G; Phillip Thomas, G.
Starters returning (3): Pat Burke, C, 6-11/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 48.1 FG%, 28.1 mpg); Wes Flanigan, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, **6.7 apg**, 2.0 spg, 70.2 FT%, 33.6 mpg); Franklin Williams, F, 6-6/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 47.1 3-pt%, 27.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Earnest Brown, G, 6-4/Soph.; Derek Caldwell, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (6.2 ppg, 75.7 FT%, 16.1 mpg); Adrian Chilliest, F, 6-5/Soph. (2.6 rpg, 12.7 mpg); Alvin Jefferson, C, 6-9/Sr. (3.1 rpg, 45.1 FG%, 13.6 mpg); Bryant Smith, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (47.5 3-pt%, 11.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jeremy Beasley, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Daymeon Fishback, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Randy Hughes, F, 6-9/Fr.; Chris Porter, F, 6-6/Fr.; Julius "Doc" Robinson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Michael Spruell, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1960.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Auburn, Ala. **Home court:** Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum (10,108).

3. ALABAMA

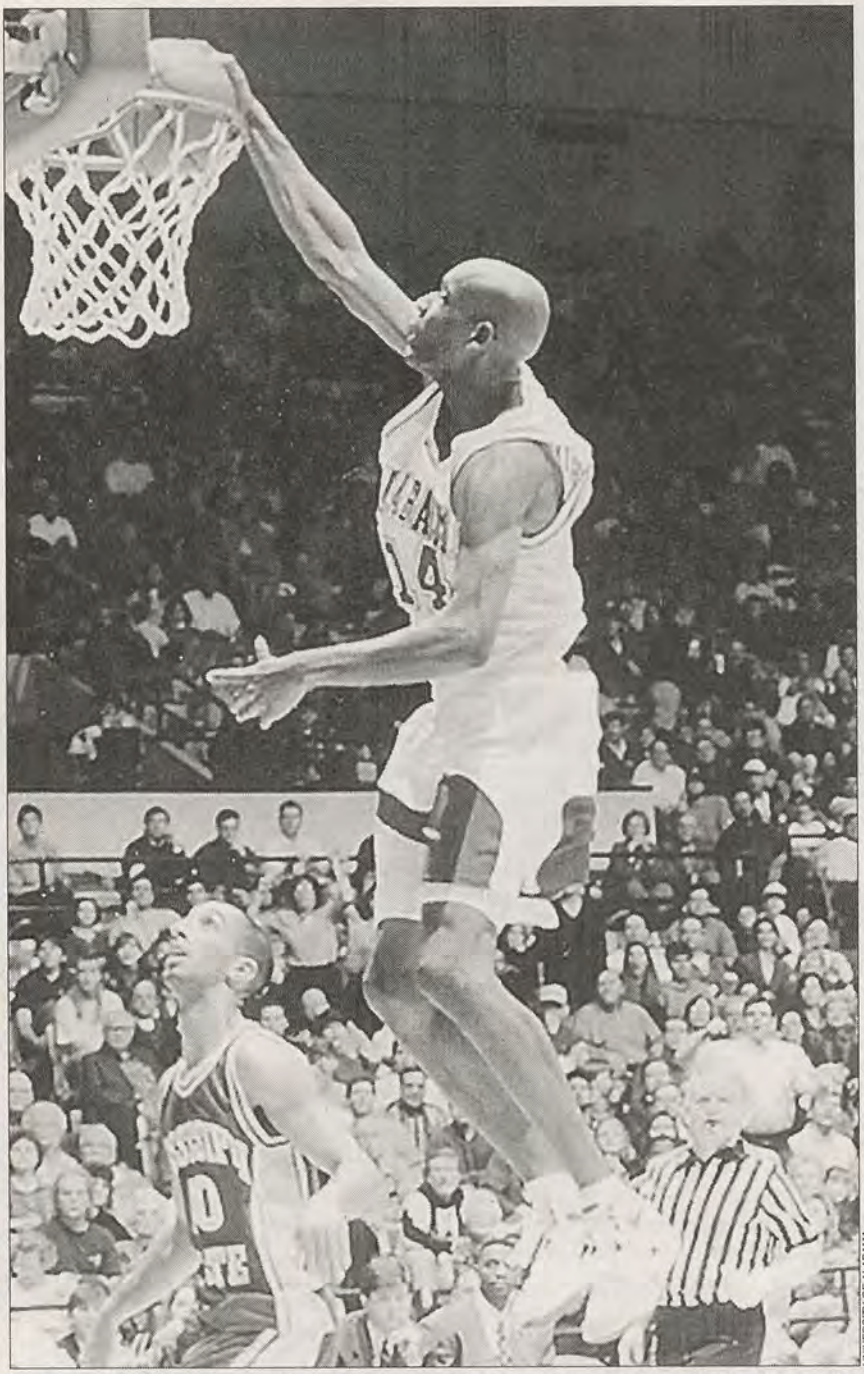
Frontcourt: Leading scorer Eric Washington, who can drill the 3-pointer, is effective inside because he rebounds much bigger than most 6-4 players. The Tide could have a formidable tandem up front with senior Thalamus McGhee and Demetrius Alexander penciled in as starting forwards. McGhee dropped 50 pounds over the summer and now checks in at a svelte 270. Alexander, a heralded JC transfer, is the top newcomer in a recruiting class that emphasized big men. There are no Roy Rogers-type defenders, but forward/center M.C. Mazique has improved.
Backcourt: After cutting his teeth last year, sophomore Brian Williams is set to be one of the top-scoring point guards in the league. He is strong and can take over a game. Off-guard Anton Reese is Alabama's best pure shooter since James Robinson. Damon Bacote and JC transfers George Brown and Ricky Poole will challenge for the off-guard spot.
Key to success: The development of an inside game to complement the outside firepower of Washington, Williams, Reese and Brown.
Outlook: Without a dominanting center like Rogers, look for the Tide to push the ball and try to score more in transition this season. Last year's appearance in the final four of the NIT took some pressure off coach David Hobbs, who is still trying to make Tide fans forget Wimp Sanderson. Alabama has the depth to challenge for the division title. It also has one of the most ambitious schedules in school history.

CRIMSON TIDE DATA

Coach: David Hobbs (78-46, 4 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-13. SEC West: 9-7/T2nd. Lost to Tulane in NIT third-place game.
Starters lost (3): Marvin Orange, G (7.9 ppg, 2.4 apg, 73.8 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg); Roy Rogers, C (13.5 ppg, 9.3 rpg, **4.9 bpg**, 52.4 FG%, 36.7 mpg); Marco Whitfield, G (7.7 ppg, 2.8 apg, 45.7 FG%, 40.0 3-pt%, 18.6 mpg).
Others lost: Anthony Brown, F (5.5 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 22.4 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Thalamus McGhee, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (5.2 rpg, 19.4 mpg); Eric Washington, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (18.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.7 spg, 79.0 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 34.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Damon Bacote, G, 6-3/Jr. (8.3 mpg); Scott Hamilton, C, 6-8/Jr.; M.C. Mazique, F, 6-10/Soph. (8.8 mpg); Anton Reese, G, 6-1/Soph. (4.6 ppg, 8.4 mpg); Blake Thrasher, G, 6-3/Soph. (7.1 mpg); Brian Williams, G, 6-1/Soph. (10.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.6 apg, 80.2 FT%, 21.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Demetrius Alexander, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); George Brown, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Jeremy Hayes, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Alfred Moss, F, 6-9/Fr.; Ricky Poole, G/F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tuscaloosa, Ala. **Home court:** Coleman Coliseum (15,043).

4. MISSISSIPPI STATE

Frontcourt: All three starters from last year's Final Four team are gone, including mammoth center Erick Dampier and electrifying small forward Dontae' Jones, both first-round NBA picks. The cupboard isn't bare, though; it's just inexperienced. Tyrone Washington takes over at center. JC All-American Horatio Webster, who replaces Jones, can score inside and from the perimeter. The other starter could be 6-9 freshman Quentin Smith, last season's Mississippi high school player of the year. Early Smith adds depth, and Whit Hughes will continue as the first sub at small forward.



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Alabama's Washington is a deadly outside shooter, though he can be effective on the inside as well.

Backcourt: Gone is Darryl Wilson, who led the Bulldogs in scoring each of the last three seasons. Marcus Bullard was ready to move from point guard into Wilson's off-guard role, but troubles with the law may end his career. The best Mississippi State can hope for is he returns after the first semester. With Bullard out of the picture, touted JC transfer Trey Moore or sophomore Bart Hyche will start at the point. Freshmen Derrick Jones and T.J. Billups, along with Moore, will play off-guard.

Keys to success: Moore must make the adjustment to Division I after sitting out last season in junior college to concentrate on academics, while Washington must become a better defender in the middle. Washington already is better offensively than Dampier was last season, but he is not nearly as quick or dominating on the other end. Bullard's return would be a boon.

Outlook: Don't expect a return to the Final Four—or even the NCAA tourney. If Bullard isn't back, someone must assume the scoring role he figured to fill. But if Webster can make Mississippi State fans forget about Jones and if Washington can come close to making them forget about Dampier, this team may squeak into the tourney.

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Richard Williams (164-130, 10 years; 6-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 26-8. SEC West: 10-6/1st. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA national semifinals.
Starters lost (4): Erick Dampier, C (14.5 ppg, **9.3 rpg**, 2.3 apg, 3.1 bpg, 55.1 FG%, 32.7 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Dontae' Jones, F (14.7 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 47.4 FG%, 74.4 FT%, 30.5 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Russell Walters, F (5.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 50.7 FG%, 27.0 mpg); Darryl Wilson, G (18.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 79.6 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 36.6 mpg).
Others lost: David Rula, G (quit team); Jay Walton, F; Bubba Wilson, C.
Starters returning (1): Marcus Bullard, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.5 spg, 46.0 FG%, 40.7 3-pt%, 35.7 mpg; may be dismissed from team).
Other returnees: McKie Edmonson, G, 6-0/Jr.; Whit Hughes, F, 6-5/Jr. (2.5 rpg, 78.2 FT%, 18.2 mpg); Bart Hyche, G, 5-11/Soph. (42.9 3-pt%, 10.7 mpg); Tyrone Washington, C, 6-10/Soph. (7.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: T.J. Billups, G, 6-4/Fr.; Derrick Jones, G, 6-4/Fr.; Terry Lawyer, F, 6-8/Fr.; Trey Moore, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Early Smith, C/F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Quentin Smith, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Horatio Webster, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1996 (West Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Starkville, Miss. **Home court:** Humphrey Coliseum (10,000).

5. LSU

Frontcourt: Look for highly touted freshman Lester Earl to start at center, with veterans Duane Spencer and Rogers Washington at the forwards. Another top signee, Cory Powell, didn't qualify academically. After the top three, the Tigers are thin, with Nick Sheppard and Bob Hall the best of the rest.

Backcourt: Randy Livingston and Ronnie Henderson opted for the NBA, but the Tigers' guards continue to be hounded by knee injuries. Deuce Ford will start at the point—if he recovers from last year's season-ending knee injury. Indications are he'll be back. Maurice Carter, who finished last year limping on a sore foot, had a knee arthroscopy in June, but he's expected to be ready when practice begins. Sophomore Gene Nabors is a candidate to play the point, while freshman Terrance Simmons could see some time at shooting guard.

Keys to success: Ford's healthy return, Earl living up to lofty expectations and Carter filling the role of "instant offense" vacated by Henderson. LSU also has to play tougher defense.

Outlook: For the first time in three years, the Tigers don't enter a season wondering if Livingston will be healthy enough to be their leader. That alone should have a settling influence on a team that has fallen on hard times. Last year's club had more than its share of bad luck, but Tigers fans are tired of excuses. This is Dale Brown's 25th year in Tiger Town—and it might be his last if LSU suffers another losing season. A difficult schedule won't help his cause.

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Dale Brown (438-281, 24 years; 15-14 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-17. SEC West: 4-12/6th.
Starters lost (3): Ronnie Henderson, G (**21.8 ppg**, 4.7 rpg, 1.7 spg, 46.1 FG%, 31.2 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Randy Livingston, G (6.1 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 5.3 apg, 2.1 spg, 79.0 FT%, 24.5 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Roman Rubchenko, F/C (11.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 73.7 FT%, 35.4 3-pt%, 25.5 mpg).
Others lost: Misha Mutavdzic, C (7.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 74.6 FT%, 16.5 mpg); Landers Nolley, F (5.7 ppg, 13.8 mpg); Garrick Scott, F (7.1 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Deuce Ford, G, 6-5/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.6 spg, 73.5 FT%, 28.5 mpg); Duane Spencer, F, 6-9/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 74.3 FT%, 24.0 mpg).
Other returnees: David Bosley, G, 5-10/Sr. (8.0 mpg); Maurice Carter, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.6 ppg, 35.1 3-pt%, 15.9 mpg); Gene Nabors, G, 6-0/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 3.3 apg, 1.5 spg, 21.6 mpg); Nick Sheppard, C, 6-9/Soph.; Quenton Thomas, G, 6-0/Jr.; Adam Walton, F, 6-8/Soph.; Rogers Washington, F, 6-6/Soph. (5.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 20.5 mpg).

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Newcomers: Lester Earl, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Bob Hall, C, Terrance Simmons, G, 6-3/Fr.; Leroy Womack, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** Pete Maravich Assembly Center (14,164).

6. MISSISSIPPI

Frontcourt: The Rebels still lack a dominating big man, but they get a little bigger and better every season. If he's recovered from reconstructive knee surgery, Anthony Boone will play center, with Ansu Sesay at one forward and Jason Smith at the other. Coach Rob Evans expects a stronger, more physical Sesay to blossom into the role of "go-to" guy. Smith is extremely athletic and plays bigger than his 6-6 frame. Jackson State transfer Johnnie Rogers is a 6-9 shot blocker. Freshmen Anthony Burks (6-8, 275) and Oliver Morton (6-10, 260) add height and bulk.
Backcourt: Michael White made great strides in the second half of last season at point guard, but he'll be pushed for the starting spot by Texas A&M transfer Chris Oney. Keith Carter, who paced the Rebels in scoring as a freshman, is set at shooting guard. He spent the summer trying to add muscle and weight to his 6-4, 170-pound frame. Streak-shooter Joezon Darby adds spark off the bench, and Jon Cantrell can shoot the 3-pointer against zone defenses.
Key to success: The Rebels must stay healthy, especially Boone, who's recovering from his second knee injury.
Outlook: Last year's commitment to youth produced a late-season surge that should carry over to this season. The Rebels will start two juniors and three sophomores but won't be the most inexperienced team in the league. Evans says this is his best team since arriving in Oxford in 1992. He better hope it plays that way, because a third consecutive losing season will have Rebels fans wondering if it's time, again, to start thinking about a coaching change.

REBELS DATA

Coach: Rob Evans (44-65, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. SEC West: 6-10/5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Marlon Childs, F; Kenny Davis, G (4.4 ppg, 2.1 apg, 15.1 mpg; left team); Ervin Games, F/G (4.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.2 spg, 72.2 FT%, 18.2 mpg); John Jackson, F (6.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 72.0 FT%, 17.8 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Anthony Boone, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.3 spg, 45.1 FG%, 23.8 mpg); Keith Carter, G, 6-4/Soph. (13.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 70.2 FT%, 41.1 3-pt%, 31.3 mpg); Ansu Sesay, F, 6-9/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.0 spg, 70.7 FT%, 26.5 mpg); Jason Smith, F, 6-6/Soph. (9.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 52.7 FG%, 20.6 mpg); Michael White, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 3.3 apg, 72.5 FT%, 36.6 3-pt%, 22.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Jon Cantrell, F/G, 6-8/Soph. (4.2 ppg, 12.6 mpg); Hunter Carpenter, G, 6-0/Soph.; Joezon Darby, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 72.5 FT%, 24.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Anthony Burks, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Oliver Morton, C, 6-10/Fr.; Chris Oney, G, 6-3/Soph. (transfer/Texas A&M); Johnnie Rogers, F, 6-9/Soph. (transfer/Jackson State).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1981.
Site: Oxford, Miss. **Home court:** C.M. (Tad) Smith Coliseum (8,135). ◆

Mike Strange, who wrote the East preview, covers Tennessee and the SEC for the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel. Rusty Hampton, who wrote the West preview, covers the SEC for the Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger.

SCOUTING THE SEC

Ascending: Tennessee. After two rebuilding seasons and a composite 26-30 mark, Kevin O'Neill has the Vols pointed up. Because of inexperience, Tennessee again will take its lumps, but O'Neill is assembling talent. The '95 recruiting class was good, and the new arrivals are even better. The Vols are probably still a year away, but the potential for surprise is there.
Descending: LSU. The Tigers haven't won more than 12 games since 1992-93 and haven't advanced to the Sweet 16 since the 1987 tourney. Attendance has deteriorated to the point where the former Deaf Dome now resembles the Dead Dome.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Mississippi State center Erick Dampier's. His 14.5-point scoring average won't be as tough for sophomore Tyrone Washington to replace as Dampier's rebounding and defensive presence.
Most underrated player: South Carolina guard Melvin Watson. The junior is a big reason the Gamecocks have a terrific backcourt. He can play the point or the wing equally well and proved last year he can play hurt.
Most overrated player: LSU guard Deuce Ford. Entering Memphis, he was rated the 17th-best incoming freshman by TSN. He transferred after one season and has had little impact for the Tigers.
Coach on the hot seat: LSU's Dale Brown. Through 24 seasons and 13 NCAA Tournament bids, Brown has taken Tigers fans on an interesting ride. But patience is wearing thin and the dean of SEC coaches must rediscover his winning ways. Brown helped his cause by signing super talent Lester Earl, a local product whose signature he had to have.
Best bets: Kentucky, South Carolina and Arkansas are locks for the NCAA Tournament. Alabama, Auburn and Missis-sippi State pace the fence-straddlers. ... If Ron Mercer has a great sophomore year at Kentucky, he'll follow Antoine Walker's lead and dash to the NBA after two college seasons. ... Whenever a coaching vacancy pops up after this season, look for another Rick Pitino assistant (Jim O'Brien, Delray Brooks or Winston Bennett) to get the nod. ... After a one-year absence from the throne, Kentucky will win the SEC Tournament in Memphis.
Odds and ends: With Erick Dampier, Dontae' Jones, Antoine Walker and Ronnie Henderson having left college early, this is a rebuilding year for the SEC. Eleven of the top 14 scorers are gone, along with 11 of the top 13 rebounders. Field-goal accuracy might suffer, since the top 12 field-goal-percentage leaders have departed. ... Curious career move of the year: Bob Boyd, coach at Mississippi State from 1982-86, has come out of retirement in California to be an assistant to Dale Brown. ... Pitino Arena? Having given Kentucky fans an NCAA championship at long last, Rick Pitino now wants to give them a new home to replace 23,000-seat Rupp Arena. Pitino is campaigning for an on-campus building, at which the school would control parking and concessions, plus cash in on luxury boxes. Pitino may be a deity in the Bluegrass, but some Lexington civic leaders, including mayor Pam Miller, aren't saluting. They want to keep the 'Cats downtown. ... Hakeem Olajuwon has taken a personal interest in 6-11 Florida freshman Obiora Nnaji, a fellow Nigerian. Olajuwon has conducted personal workouts in Houston with him and advised Nnaji on diet and training. ... Newcomer candidate for the All-Name Team is Phenizee Ransom at Georgia. He is eligible after transferring from Division II Winston-Salem (N.C.) State, where he was Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Rookie of the Year. ... There is considerable relief around Georgia that Hugh Durham's age-discrimination suit has been settled out of court. ... Jan van Breda Kolff has a new staff at Vanderbilt. One of his aides is Ron Bargatze, the school's radio color commentator the past nine years. Before that, Bargatze was an assistant at Vandy. One of his recruits was van Breda Kolff. ... If prep All-American Jermaine O'Neal had made his test score, South Carolina insiders are confident he would have signed with the Gamecocks and waited a year or two on the NBA. Eddie Fogler took his club on an August tour to Sweden and Finland. Pro scouts feel the Gamecocks' 6-11 junior Ryan Stack is 15-20 pounds from the NBA. ... Alabama's Thalamus McGhee would be glad to give Stack a few pounds. McGhee, who peaked at 317, hopes to play at 265-270 this year, down from 290 last year. ... Tennessee signed guard Vegas Davis of Parker, Ariz., so late and kept it so quiet, a lot of folks still haven't heard of him. From the looks of preseason pickup games, they will soon. . . . The Vols' Kevin O'Neill has the distinction of being the first SEC coach to lose an assistant (Craig McMillan) to the Kuwaiti pro league. ◆

—MIKE STRANGE

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Tennessee (C Charles Hathaway). The Vols got big with this class. Along with the 6-10 Hathaway, Tennessee also welcomes 6-8 F C.J. Black and 6-9 F Isiah Victor. DaShay Jones is a stud JC point guard. G Vegas Davis is a sleeper.
2. Auburn (G Julius "Doc" Robinson).
3. Alabama (F Demetrius Alexander).
4. LSU (C/F Lester Earl).
5. Georgia (G Adrian Jones).
6. Mississippi State (F Horatio Webster).
7. Vanderbilt (F Dan Langhi).
8. Arkansas (G Glendon Alexander).
9. South Carolina (F/G Herbert Lee Davis).
10. Mississippi (F/C Anthony Burks).
11. Florida (C Obiora Nnaji).
12. Kentucky (C Jamaal Magloire).

BIG EAST

Conference Rank: 3

By David Ramsey

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

BIG EAST 7	BIG EAST 6
1. SYRACUSE	1. VILLANOVA
2. PROVIDENCE	2. BOSTON COLLEGE
3. GEORGETOWN	3. CONNECTICUT
4. MIAMI	4. ST. JOHN'S
5. PITTSBURGH	5. WEST VIRGINIA
6. SETON HALL	6. NOTRE DAME
7. RUTGERS	

ALL-BIG EAST TEAM

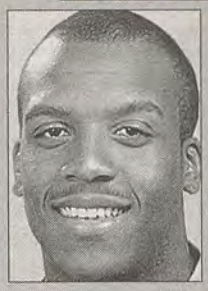
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	DANYA ABRAMS, Boston College	6-7/265	Sr.
F	TODD BURGAN, Syracuse	6-7/225	Jr.
C	ZENDON HAMILTON, St. John's	6-11/225	Jr.
G	FELIPE LOPEZ, St. John's	6-6/190	Jr.
G	VICTOR PAGE, Georgetown	6-3/205	Soph.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	AUSTIN CROSHERE, Providence	6-9/230	Sr.
C	OTIS HILL, Syracuse	6-8/255	Sr.
C	JASON LAWSON, Villanova	6-11/240	Sr.
G	RICKY MOORE, Connecticut	6-2/185	Soph.
G	SCOONIE PENN, Boston College	5-10/175	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



DANYA ABRAMS
F, Boston College

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

WINFRED WALTON, F, Syracuse

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Pat Garrity, Notre Dame.

Best rebounder: Danya Abrams, Boston College.

Best playmaker: God Shammgod, Providence.

Best defender: Jason Lawson, Villanova.

Best leaper: Felipe Lopez, St. John's.

Best under 6 foot: Scoonie Penn, Boston College.

Best over 7 foot: Will Davis, Miami.

Most versatile: Todd Burgan, Syracuse.

Most flamboyant: Zendon Hamilton, St. John's.

Best NBA prospect: Victor Page, Georgetown.

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE

Providence's Croshere is a front-line force in the Big East—when he wants to be.

BIG EAST 7

1. SYRACUSE

Frontcourt: Todd Burgan will emerge as one of the best, and toughest, players in the conference. He can drive, shoot from long range and defend with muscle and quickness. He'll step into John Wallace's role as the team's spiritual and offensive leader. Only one thing stands between center Otis Hill and stardom—his devotion to hacking. He earned early exits from nine games and collected nearly as many fouls (134) as free-throw attempts (141). When he isn't fouling, Hill brings might and a soft shooting touch to the pivot. Freshman Winfred Walton is the team's—and perhaps the conference's—prize newcomer. He can soar above the rim, score inside and outside, rebound and pass. Walton should start every game of his Syracuse career. Center Elvir Ovcina has shown flashes of promise, but he appears too soft to make much noise this season.

Backcourt: Shooting guard Jason Cipolla was coach Jim Boeheim's favorite target for criticism much of last season. At first, Cipolla was a clumsy defender interested only in shooting. He changed, though, and also became a frequent visitor to the floor chasing loose balls. Cipolla lacks quickness, speed and leaping ability, but he owns a sweet 3-point stroke and can juke his way to the rim. He also is masterful in the tense late seconds. Freshman Jason Hart is expected to be ready to step into Lazarus Sims' vacated point guard job. Watch for Marius Janulis and newcomer Ramel Lloyd to get minutes.

Keys to success: Hart must mature quickly, and Hill must refrain from fouling.

Outlook: Last season's team was regarded for most of the season as one carried by Wallace. But Burgan, Hill and Cipolla played superbly in the team's run to the NCAA final. If Walton and Hart are as talented as advertised, the Orangemen should make another run deep into the tournament.

ORANGEMEN DATA

Coach: Jim Boeheim (483-159, 20 years; 27-17 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 29-9. Big East 7: 12-6/2nd. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA final.
Starters lost (2): Lazarus Sims, G (6.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg, **7.4 apg**, 1.4 spg, 74.7 FT%, 36.1 3-pt%, 35.6 mpg); John Wallace, F (22.2 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.2 spg, 1.6 bpg, 48.9 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 48.9 3-pt%, 36.3 mpg).
Others lost: Bobby Lazor, F (transfer/Arizona State); David Patrick, G (transfer/Southwestern Louisiana); J.B. Reafsnyder, C/F (3.4 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 14.7 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Todd Burgan, F, 6-7/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.7 spg, 34.2 mpg); Jason Cipolla, G/F, 6-7/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 1.0 spg, 23.5 mpg); Otis Hill, C, 6-8/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, **57.1 FG%**, 24.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Marius Janulis, G, 6-5/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 84.6 FT%, 41.6 3-pt%, 20.2 mpg); Elvir Ovcina, C/F, 6-11/Soph. (2.0 rpg).
Top newcomers: Jason Hart, G, 6-2/Fr.; LeSean Howard, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ramel Lloyd, G, 6-4/Fr.; Dedreck Thomas, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Winfred Walton, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1991.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Syracuse, N.Y. **Home court:** Carrier Dome (33,000).

2. PROVIDENCE

Frontcourt: Austin Croshere is a smooth, dangerous offensive player. He can sink 3s. He can blow past defenders to the basket. And when he's in the mood, he can be a

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

prolific offensive rebounder. What Croshere must do in his final season is play defense. He often hurt the Friars with his disinterested work in the post. The team needs a centerpiece, and there's no reason Croshere can't be the man. Derrick Brown, who always plays with intensity, could emerge as the one of the league's best inside players. Rugged center Ruben Garces might be pushed by JC transfer Abdul Brown.

Backcourt: At the beginning of last season, God Shammgod shot too much, dribbled behind his back too much, threw the ball away too much. But he matured into a smooth operator of coach Pete Gillen's up-tempo offense and finished with a 2-to-1 assist-turnover ratio. He has the skills to score more this season and could become the league's best pure point. The Friars' biggest hole is at shooting guard, which has been vacated by Michael Brown. Jason Murdock, who has been inconsistent throughout his career, is the first choice.

Keys to success: Croshere must become a better defender and rebounder, and Shammgod needs to look for his shot more.

Outlook: If Croshere, Brown or Shammgod emerges as a clear leader, and if the team finds a shooting guard to take defensive attention away from Shammgod, Providence should claw its way into the NCAA Tournament.

FRIARS DATA

Coach: Pete Gillen (35-25, 2 years; 237-100 overall, 10 years; 5-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-12. Big East 7: 9-9/3rd. Lost to St. Joseph's in NIT second round.
Starters lost (1): Michael Brown, G (11.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.6 spg, 46.1 FG%, 81.0 FT%, 44.9 3-pt%, 32.4 mpg).
Others lost: Justin Acker, G; Borja Larragan, G (10.9 mpg; transfer/Marist); Piotr Szybilski, C (9.4 mpg; returned to Poland).
Starters returning (4): Derrick Brown, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.0 spg, 48.2 FG%, 75.4 FT%, 29.3 mpg); Austin Croshere, F, 6-9/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.5 spg, 85.2 FT%, 28.6 mpg); Ruben Garces, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 22.4 mpg); God Shammgod, G, 6-0/Soph. (9.6 ppg, 6.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 30.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Llewellyn Cole, F, 6-7/Soph.; Jason Murdock, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 76.6 FT%, 15.8 mpg); Jamel Thomas, F, 6-6/Soph. (9.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 45.3 FG%, 37.5 3-pt%, 20.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Abdul Brown, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Kofi Pointer, F, 6-8/Fr.; Corey Wright, G, 5-8/Soph. (JC).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Providence Civic Center (13,106).

3. GEORGETOWN

Frontcourt: Jahidi White has spent more time than is healthy sitting the past two seasons. This season, with Othella Harrington and Jerome Williams gone, White becomes the Hoyas' primary inside threat. He's huge, powerful and deceptively quick. He will intimidate many an opponent and score in double figures. Boubacar Aw is a classic Hoya: He defends with great vigor and emotion, and he doesn't shoot well. Still, he'll start and do a fine job of shutting down the league's offensive stars. The Hoyas need a center. The job could be claimed by Ya-Ya Dia or 205-pound freshman Shamel Jones.

Backcourt: College basketball will miss the reckless excitement offered by Allen Iverson. Victor Page won't. Iverson's departure will give Page more shots and a better chance to display his considerable skills. Page is strong enough to score inside and can sink NBA-range 3-pointers. He shares Iverson's weakness for taking ridiculous shots, but Page should step out as one of the nation's best shooting guards. Freshman Ed Sheffey should grab Iverson's point guard job. There's no clear heir among returning players. Jerry Nichols has, like White, failed to live up to his billing out of high school. He has the skills to fight his way off the bench this season.

Keys to success: White must seize his chance and use his considerable power inside, and Page must become the scoring leader.

Outlook: It was strange to watch the Hoyas during the two-year Iverson era. A team once known for a plodding, boring offense revved up and ran. Look for the slow style to return—and look for the Hoyas to contend for a trip to the NCAA Tournament. This team has the players to surprise.

HOYAS DATA

Coach: John Thompson (553-208, 24 years; 34-18 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '84).
1995-96 record: 29-8. Big East 7: 13-5/1st. Lost to Massachusetts in NCAA East final.
Starters lost (3): Othella Harrington, C (12.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 55.9 FG%, 74.1 FT%, 26.6 mpg); Allen Iverson, G (**25.0 ppg**, 3.8 rpg, 4.7 apg, **3.4 spg**, 48.0 FG%, 36.6 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Jerome Williams, F (10.3 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.9 spg, 58.8 FG%, 27.5 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Boubacar Aw, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.2 spg, 50.7 FG%, 18.8 mpg); Victor Page, G, 6-3/Soph. (12.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1.5 spg, 26.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Ya-Ya Dia, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (3.9 rpg, 53.3 FG%, 12.8 mpg); Daymond Jackson, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (45.8 FG%, 10.1 mpg); Jerry Nichols, G, 6-4/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 36.7 3-pt%, 14.3 mpg); Godwin Owinje, F, 6-8/Sr.; Joseph Touomou, G, 6-2/Soph. (14.3 mpg); Jameel Watkins, C, 6-10/Soph.; Jahidi White, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 56.0 FG%, 11.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Rhese Gibson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Shamel Jones, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Shernard Long, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Ed Sheffey, G, 6-0/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** USAir Arena (19,035).

4. MIAMI

Frontcourt: Sophomore forward Tim James did not start a game last season, but he has the look of a star. He is extremely fast and might be the conference's best leaper—he set the Florida high-jump record with a 7-2 leap as a high school junior. Look for James to score 15-plus points, make spectacular blocks and start talk of an NBA career. Center Will Davis has endured a history of knee trouble. If he's healthy, the Hurricanes will have a 7-foot presence in the middle who can block shots and seize rebounds. But that's a big if. Alex Fraser is the team's best interior defender, but he is a paint-by-numbers offensive player. Freshman Jermaine Walker will get some minutes if he is eligible the second semester.

Backcourt: On some nights last season, point guard Kevin Norris looked like the best floor leader in the conference. On others, he looked as if he belonged on some playground court. For the Hurricanes to climb out of mediocrity, Norris must mature. He also must shoot with better judgment and accuracy. Miami struggled to find a shooting guard last season, going through Clifton Clark and Steve Frazier. The job probably will be taken by highly touted freshman swingman Lucas Barnes.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Miami's Norris can be an effective floor leader. He needs to play with more consistency.

Keys to success: Norris must embrace a slightly more sensible approach to the game, and James must emerge as a scoring leader. The Hurricanes were a mess on offense last season.

Outlook: The Hurricanes appear a player away from becoming an NCAA Tournament-caliber team. If Davis and Frazier—both victims of severe knee injuries—can stay healthy, this team will be much more powerful. Coach Leonard Hamilton specializes in crafting cautious, defensive-oriented teams. If he wants a chance at his first tournament bid, he must allow James, Norris and Barnes the chance to be creative and explosive.

HURRICANES DATA

Coach: Leonard Hamilton (64-106, 6 years; 120-169 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 15-13. Big East 7: 8-10/4th.
Starters lost (2): Steven Edwards, F (12.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 30.2 mpg); Steve Rich, C (9.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 21.9 mpg).
Others lost: Chuck Barker, G (left team); Lorenzo Pearson, F (10.5 mpg); Brad Timpf, F (knee injuries).
Starters returning (3): Clifton Clark, G, 6-4/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 17.8 mpg); Alex Fraser, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 20.7 mpg); Kevin Norris, G, 5-9/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 4.0 apg, 72.1 FT%, 35.4 3-pt%, 27.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Will Davis, C, 7-0/Sr.; Nick Donovan, F, 6-11/Soph.; Steve Frazier, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.0 apg, 22.4 mpg); Tim James, F, 6-7/Soph. (10.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 52.9 FG%, 22.3 mpg); Torey McCormick, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 mpg); Anthony Rosa, G, 5-9/Sr. (11.5 mpg); Jaime Waggoner G, 6-2/Jr.
Top newcomers: Lucas Barnes, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Mario Bland, F, 6-7/Fr.; John Hemsley, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Vernon Jennings, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jermaine Walker, F, 6-7/Fr. (academically ineligible for first semester; may be eligible second semester).

Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1960.
Site: Miami. **Home court:** Miami Arena (15,388).

5. PITTSBURGH

Frontcourt: Chad Varga can get lost in a conference rich in forwards. He is the rare big man who is comfortable shooting 3s and muscling for baskets in the lane, and he kept the team afloat last season. Center Gerald Jordan needs to become a presence in the middle if the Panthers are to climb. Mark Blount and Andre Howard will compete for the power forward job. Blount is exceptionally fast and quick for a player of his height (7-0), but he lacks the might (215 pounds) to tangle inside. His development is crucial to the team's success. Expect freshman Isaac Hawkins to compete for playing time and perhaps even grab a starting job.

Backcourt: Vonteego Cummings will take over direction of the offense from departed Jerry McCullough. Cummings shot woefully last season and must improve his touch if he doesn't want defenders sagging off him. Pitt needs Kellii Taylor to recover from back surgery. If he isn't healthy, the Panthers have a big hole at shooting guard. Kevin Willard, son of coach Ralph, is fun to watch off the bench. He plays with emotion, but his dribbling and, especially, shooting are lacking.

Key to success: Someone must emerge as a forceful rebounder. Pitt often got hammered on the boards last season.

Outlook: The Panthers appear too soft and too young to contend for a place in the NCAA Tournament. The frontcourt is full of quick, skinny players, and Willard badly needs an enforcer to help this team in the ever-physical Big East. Last season's recruiting class drew much acclaim. This is the season for the highly touted collection of talent to perform. Willard's frantic style can be entertaining, but fans in the Steel City expect a few more victories.

PANTHERS DATA

Coach: Ralph Willard (20-35, 2 years; 101-77 overall, 6 years, 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-17. Big East 7: 5-13/7th.
Starters lost (3): Andre Alridge, G (6.7 ppg, 2.7 apg, 39.8 3-pt%, 23.7 mpg); Jerry McCullough, G (13.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 5.3 apg, 3.0 spg, 75.2 FT%, 32.6 mpg); Garrick Thomas, G (8.2 ppg, 1.0 spg, 49.3 FG%, 44.7 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Gerald Jordan, C, 6-10/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 22.6 mpg); Chad Varga, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 48.9 FG%, 36.1 3-pt%, 28.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Mark Blount, F/C, 7-0/Soph. (3.0 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 14.4 mpg); Vonteego Cummings, G, 6-3/Soph. (6.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.9 apg, 24.2 mpg); Andre Howard, F, 6-6/Soph. (3.5 rpg, 14.5 mpg); Jason Maile, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 41.8 3-pt%, 12.1 mpg); Kevin Willard, G, 6-0/Jr. (16.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Isaac Hawkins, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jarrett Lockhart, G, 6-2/Fr.; Kellii Taylor, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS/back).
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Pittsburgh. **Home court:** Fitzgerald Field House (6,798).

6. SETON HALL

Frontcourt: Last year, Donnell Williams wandered through something of a lost sophomore season. Suffering from kidney problems, he lacked stamina, shot poorly and raised questions about his future. The Pirates need a healthy Williams, who was a unanimous selection to the league's All-Rookie team in 1995, to revive their slug-

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

Billett was effective as a true freshman for Rutgers. He also is a great free-throw shooter.

gish offense. Liberian center Jacky Kaba is the league's best showman. He dances and howls and appears to be have a grand time in the grim world of the lane. Kaba plays fine defense but must improve his rebounding and become more of an offensive threat. Bayonne Taty is an adequate power forward. This unit looks thin and could have used help from a newcomer. That help didn't arrive in the offseason.

Backcourt: Coach George Blaney had struggled mightily in recruiting, but he snuffed at least some criticism by landing prep All-American Shaheen Holloway, the quick point guard the program desperately needed. An imaginative passer, he could become the most valuable freshman in the conference. Levell Sanders brings feisty defense and decent shooting. He must cut down on his turnovers. Rimas Kaukenas, a freshman from Lithuania, and Jalil Roberts, a transfer from Wisconsin, will bring depth. The Pirates' strength will be the guards.

Key to success: Williams must regain his health and his freshman form.

Outlook: Seton Hall could be the surprise of the conference if Holloway plays to the level of his considerable gifts and Williams is healthy. This team will rise—or tumble—with its backcourt. The front line needs more scoring punch, and Blaney must find a rebounder. Holloway will find open spaces. He needs teammates who can get open and, when they do, sink a few shots. But his search for scorers may be in vain.

PIRATES DATA

Coach: George Blaney (28-30, 2 years; 449-364 overall, 29 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-16. Big East 7: 7-11/5th.
Starters lost (2): Adrian Griffin, F/G (19.5 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 3.1 apg, 2.5 spg, 35.1 mpg); Danny Hurley, G (14.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 5.2 apg, 2 spg, 76.9 FT%, 36.3 mpg).
Others lost: John Fairchild, G; Roger Ingraham, F (5.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 45.3 FG%, 17.5 mpg); John Yablonski, G.
Starters returning (3): Jacky Kaba, C, 6-10/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 22.0 mpg); Levell Sanders, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.9 aps, 2.0 spg, 35.4 3-pt%, 34.3 mpg); Bayonne Taty, F, 6-10/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 23.7 mpg)
Other returnees: Duane Jordan, F, 6-6/Soph. (10.5 mpg); Roy Leath, F, 6-7/Soph.; Kelland Payton, C, 6-10/Soph.; Donnell Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 71.4 FT%, 26.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Shaheen Holloway, G, 5-10/Fr.; Rimas Kaukenas, G, 6-4/Fr.; Jalil Roberts, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Wisconsin).
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: South Orange, N.J. **Home court:** Continental Airlines Arena/Meadowlands (20,029); Walsh Gym (3,200).

7. RUTGERS

Frontcourt: Eric Clark, an exciting shot blocker, and Johnny McCrimmon, a decent rebounder, are returning from offseason knee and leg injuries, respectively. Rob Hodgson provides adequate shooting and defense at small forward. JC transfer Terry Mills could help. The Scarlet Knights were pushed around under the basket last season and rebounded poorly. Coach Bob Wenzel brought in two 7-footers, Josh Sankes and JC transfer Jamar Holcomb. But both have the look of projects. The Knights will get pounded inside by better and bigger players.

Backcourt: Sophomore point guard Geoff Billet is a wise, consistent player who prevented the team from having a completely miserable season a year ago. Do not foul him: He is a lock at the line, with perhaps the best stroke in the country. Billet will be pushed by freshman Earl Johnson, who will bring needed speed and quickness. Johnnie Blake should seize Damon Santiago's vacant shooting guard job. Blake shot 60 percent from 3-point range and averaged 32.6 points at Chicago's Malcolm X Junior College. Billy Gilligan offers instant offense—but horrendous defense—off the bench. He is, though, a crowd favorite and a good bet to win a game with a last-second shot. When it comes to shooting, he's always willing, no matter how tense the situation.

Key to success: The frontcourt somehow must keep the team from getting overwhelmed on the boards.

Outlook: The Scarlet Knights played far above their heads last season, a credit to Wenzel. It appears as if the team will be asked for a similar performance this season. Rutgers lacks talent, especially under the basket, and will struggle to escape the basement of its division. Wenzel surprised many by hanging on to his job at the end of last season. He brought in seven newcomers. A couple of them must develop quickly or this could a long season in New Jersey.

SCARLET KNIGHTS DATA

Coach: Bob Wenzel (117-119, 7 years; 205-205 overall, 13 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Big East 7: 6-12/6th.
Starters lost (2): Andrew Kolbasovsky, F (10.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 36.5 3-pt%, 21.5 mpg); Damon Santiago, G (17.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.0 apg, 72.3 FT%, 43.8 3-pt%, 33.9 mpg).
Others lost: Albert Karner, G (4.8 ppg, 1.2 spg, 77.0 FT%, 18.9 mpg); Jason Maronge, F (8.0 mpg; transfer).
Starters returning (3): Geoff Billet, G, 6-0/Soph. (11.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.0 spg, **90.0 FT%**, 36.9 3-pt%, 33.4 mpg); Eric Clark, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.0 bpg, 45.5 FG%,

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

26.7 mpg); Rob Hodgson, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.7 spg, 76.0 FT%, 27.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Billy Gilligan, G, 6-5/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 74.1 FT%, 14.4 mpg); Darko Matijasevic, F, 6-8/Soph.; Johnny McCrimmon, F, 6-9/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 20.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Norris Bell, F, 6-6/Fr.; Johnnie Blake, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Jamar Holcomb, C, 7-1/Jr. (JC); Earl Johnson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Terry Mills, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Sammy Sanders, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Josh Sankes, C, 7-0/Fr.
Last league title: 1991 (Atlantic 10).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: New Brunswick, N.J. **Home court:** Louis Brown Athletic Center (8,500).

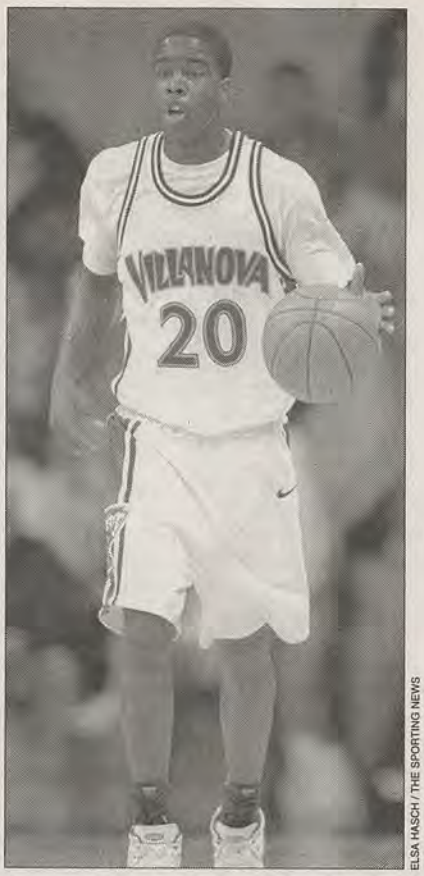
BIG EAST 6

1. VILLANOVA

Frontcourt: Tim Thomas flirted with heading straight to the pros from high school but decided to take a detour, most likely a brief one, to college. He could become the rare newcomer who dominates. Thomas is exceptionally versatile, which could become a problem. He often appears intent on displaying his ballhandling skills when he should be banging under the basket. Center Jason Lawson is an old-fashioned bruiser, a superb shot blocker who labors with emotion and diligence in the lane. This is his audition season for the NBA, and he has the talent to become one of the better centers in the country. Chuck Kornegay, if healthy, will return as the starter at power forward. Zeffy Penn is a stingy, physical defender who does his best work off the bench. Sophomore Rafal Bigus and touted freshmen Malik Allen and T.J. Caouette will want their minutes.
Backcourt: With Kerry Kittles off to NBA riches, point guard Alvin Williams will be asked to score. Williams has been a steady player who might have much more offense in him. Look for Howard Brown to claim Kittles' shooting guard job, with John Celestand coming off the bench. Brown plays stingy defense and his touch, erratic last season, will improve. Touted freshman Brian Lynch reportedly has a nice outside shot.
Keys to success: Williams and Lawson need to become better scorers and shake off their personalities as role players.
Outlook: If Thomas is as dominating as advertised, the Wildcats could be powerful. They must develop a more physical nature. They were a finely skilled team last season but mediocre when it came to the rough stuff, like rebounding. This softness has cost the team dearly. Villanova suffered early exits—in the first round in 1995, and in the second round in 1996—in the past two NCAA Tournaments. The team will miss Kittles, but it might do better without his rather calm personality. Lawson, Kornegay and Williams will be seeking to cap careers with better performances in March.

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Steve Lappas (79-46, 4 years; 135-108 overall, 8 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 26-7. Big East 6: 14-4/2nd. Lost to Louisville in NCAA Midwest second round.
Starters lost (2): Eric Eberz, F (13.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 84.8 FT%, 31 mpg); Kerry Kittles, G (20.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 3.5 apg, 2.4 spg, 45.5 FG%, 71.0 FT%, 40.4 3-pt%, 35 mpg).



ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

Williams has been a steady point guard for Villanova, but he will be asked to score more.

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Others lost: Kevin Cox, G; Jaime Gregg, F.
Starters returning (3): Chuck Kornegay, F, 6-9/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 23 mpg); Jason Lawson, C, 6-11/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 6.8 rpg, **3.0 bpg**, 62.1 FG%, 29 mpg); Alvin Williams, G, 6-5/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.4 apg, 1.4 spg, 45.4 FG%, 71.0 FT%, 33 mpg).
Other returnees: Rafal Bigus, C, 7-1/Soph. (2.2 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 10 mpg); Howard Brown, G, 6-5/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 15 mpg); John Celestand, G, 6-3/Soph. (11 mpg); Brian Noone, G, 6-1/Jr.; Zeffy Penn, F, 6-6/Sr. (3.1 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 76.7 FT%, 18 mpg).
Top newcomers: Malik Allen, F, 6-10/Fr.; T.J. Caouette, F, 6-7/Fr.; Brian Lynch, G, 6-6/Fr.; Tim Thomas, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1983 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Villanova, Pa. **Home court:** du Pont Pavilion (6,500); CoreStates Spectrum (18,060).

2. BOSTON COLLEGE

Frontcourt: Danya Abrams is, to put it charitably, a trifle chubby at 265 pounds. But he can play. Abrams, the most rugged player in the league and the team's emotional leader, pushes, elbows, hooks, hugs and wills his way to rebounds and baskets. The Eagles will need a consistent season from him if they are to again reach the NCAA Tournament. Keenan Jourdon is the team's defensive specialist, and Bevan Thomas specializes in offensive rebounding. For the Eagles to contend with Villanova, Jourdon and Thomas must grow into more than Abrams' sidekicks. Swingman Antonio Granger can score but is a listless defender. He needs a more diverse game. Mickey Curley, the brother of former Eagles star Billy, is the team's enforcer. He'll come in to rumble when opponents get too rough with Abrams and company.

Backcourt: Scoonie Penn revved up a dormant offense last season. He has the nerve to take on the giants of the lane, and he is willing to take shots in the final minutes. But Penn needs to develop a better 3-point shot. Duane Woodward is a steady guard who never will be a scoring machine. He and Penn lack defensive skills. Andy Bedard is a fine leaper and decent shooter who will contribute off the bench.

Keys to success: Abrams must remain free of injury and out of foul trouble, and the team needs another force to emerge in the frontcourt.

Outlook: Last season, the Eagles did not beat a Big East team that had a winning conference record, but they sneaked their way to an NCAA bid and into the second round. This season the team faces the burden of expectations. Sneaky won't be enough. No squad in the league relies as heavily on one player. If Abrams falters or gets injured, the Eagles will collapse.

EAGLES DATA

Coach: Jim O'Brien (146-157, 10 years; 213-208 overall, 14 years; 4-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-11. Big East 6: 10-8/3rd. Lost to Georgia Tech in NCAA Southeast second round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Mike Piwerka, F (transfer/Niagara).
Starters returning (5): Danya Abrams, F, 6-7/Sr. (19.6 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 1.3 spg, 47.1 FG%, 70.5 FT%, 34.0 mpg); Antonio Granger, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 37.6 3-pt%, 22.7 mpg); Keenan Jourdan, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.4 spg, 53.2 FG%, 23.5 mpg); Scoonie Penn, G, 5-10/Soph. (13.2 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.2 spg, 75.5 FT%, 34.5 mpg); Duane Woodward, G, 6-3/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.1 spg, 73.0 FT%, 29.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Greg Bartoli, G, 6-2/Soph.; Andy Bedard, G, 6-1/Soph. (39.7 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg); Pat Bosworth, G, 5-11/Sr.; Brad Christianson, F/G, 6-7/Sr. (8.4 mpg); Mickey Curley, C, 6-9/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 81.4 FT%, 15.1 mpg); Nate Fox, F, 6-9/Soph.; Kostas Maglos, F, 6-10/Soph.; Bevan Thomas, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 52.8 FG%, 39.5 3-pt%, 17.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Damien Foster, G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1983 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Chestnut Hill, Mass. **Home court:** Silvio O. Conte Forum (8,606).

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

King, a senior, is the lone returning starter for UConn. The Huskies need him to increase his productivity this season.

3. CONNECTICUT

Frontcourt: Kirk King played a supporting role last season as Ray Allen and Doron Sheffer led the Huskies. This season, he's the anchor. A powerful if unimaginative player, he needs to become more assertive and tell his young teammates to get him the ball. He has the might and the will to grow into the team leader. It would serve him well to take a look at Boston College and learn a few lessons from Danya Abrams. Freshman Kevin Freeman will contend for a starting job at small forward with sophomore Rashamel Jones. Antric Klaiber, stuck at the end of the bench last season, added 20 pounds, most of it muscle, in the offseason and could start at center. Freshman Sam Funches could figure in the mix at power forward, while freshmen Jake Voskuhl should see time at center.

Backcourt: Ricky Moore is the kind of feisty point guard who always ends up in the lane. He will emerge as a star this season. With Allen Iverson in the NBA, Moore inherits the title of quickest player in the Big East. He suffered a shoulder injury last season but is healthy. Freshman Richard Hamilton, a superb talent, has the task of replacing Allen at shooting guard; he appears ready. JC transfer Monquencio Hardnett will back up Hamilton and Moore.

Keys to success: Freeman and Hamilton must mature quickly, and Moore must avoid turnovers.

Outlook: The Huskies lack the talent to contend for the title, but they should return to the NCAA Tournament. If the team embraces coach Jim Calhoun's system of pressing defense and running offense, it will record several upsets. Next season, the Huskies should again be mighty. For years, the program has boasted a player who served as the team's rallying point: Cliff Robinson, Chris Smith, Donyell Marshall, Ray Allen. This team will be more balanced. If Hamilton matures quickly and takes up a sizable chunk of the scoring load, the Huskies will surprise.

HUSKIES DATA

Coach: Jim Calhoun (222-99, 10 years; 472-236 overall, 24 years; 16-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 32-3. Big East 6: 17-1/1st. Lost to Mississippi State in NCAA Southeast semifinals.
Starters lost (4): Ray Allen, G (23.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.7 spg, 47.2 FG%, 81.0 FT%, **46.6 3-pt%**, 34.7 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Rudy Johnson, F (7.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 54.3 FG%, 75.5 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 18.7 mpg); Travis Knight, C (9.1 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.0 bpg, 52.1 FG%, 27.9 mpg); Doron Sheffer, G (16.0 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 6.1 apg, 1.9 spg, 84.9 FT%, 40.6 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg).
Others lost: Eric Hayward, C (3.3 rpg, 48.4 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 15.1 mpg); Pete Kane, F; Justin Srb, G.
Starters returning (1): Kirk King, F, 6-8/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 57.5 FG%, 25.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Dion Carson, G, 6-3/Sr.; Kyle Chapman, G, 6-3/Sr.; Ruslan Inyatkin, F, 6-7/Jr.; Rashamel Jones, F/G, 6-5/Soph. (5.6 ppg, 14.4 mpg); Antric Klaiber, C, 6-10/Soph.; Ricky Moore, G, 6-2/Soph. (4.7 ppg, 3.0 apg, 50.0 FG%, 19.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kevin Freeman, F, 6-6/Fr.; Sam Funches, F, 6-9/Fr.; Richard Hamilton, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Monquencio Hardnett, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Michael LeBlanc, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jake Voskuhl, C, 6-11/Fr.; Souleymane Wane, C, 6-11/Fr. (could become eligible second semester).
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Storrs, Conn. **Home court:** Harry A. Gampel Pavilion (8,241); Hartford Civic Center (16,294).

4. ST. JOHN'S

Frontcourt: Center Zendon Hamilton, who twists and dances to open spaces in the lane, put up dazzling numbers last season

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

during St. John's dismal collapse. Coach Fran Fraschilla said Hamilton should not be judged by his numbers, but by his team's success. Those words serve as a veiled challenge for Hamilton. He must play better defense and be more willing to pass. Charles Minlend, who missed last season because of a torn hamstring, is a physical, no-frills player, which is exactly what the Red Storm need. He should provide maturity, defense and muscle. Tyrone Grant is a resourceful rebounder who will share time with Minlend. Fred Lyson should see time at small forward.

Backcourt: Felipe Lopez can redeem himself. It won't be easy, but he can. He has dazzling quickness and the ability to soar above the rim; he also is an outstanding rebounder for a guard. But Lopez must improve his shot selection and show at least some interest on defense. Tarik Turner has been handed the starting point guard job by Fraschilla. After stumbling for two seasons, this is his season to emerge as a quality floor leader. Freshman Lavor Postell is expected to play shooting guard and small forward.

Keys to success: The Red Storm must get along with each other, something they struggled to do last season, learn to play defense and find a consistent point guard.

Outlook: St. John's has the players and the motivation to pull a startling turnaround. Hamilton and Lopez eventually will head for the NBA. Perhaps they can record a winning season before they leave. Fraschilla promises a more diligent team, one more interested in diving after loose balls and stopping easy baskets. Crowds at home games were unruly last season as they booed a disappointing team. This squad has the talent to make those crowds cheer again.

RED STORM DATA

Coach: Fran Fraschilla (1st year, 85-35 overall, 4 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-16. Big East 6: 5-13/5th.
Starters lost (3): Rowan Barrett, F (10.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 26.6 mpg); Derek Brown, G (6.8 ppg, 3.5 apg, 1.8 spg, 24.5 mpg); Maurice Brown, G (6.2 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.0 spg, 82.5 FT%, 39.2 3-pt%, 21.3 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Zendon Hamilton, C, 6-11/Jr. (20.8 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 79.7 FT%, 35.5 mpg); Felipe Lopez, G, 6-6/Jr. (16.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 33.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Tom Bayne, C, 6-10/Sr.; Ed Brown, F, 6-8/Soph.; Tyrone Grant, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.8 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 57.9 FG%, 26.0 mpg); Fred Lyson, F/G, 6-7/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 38.2 3-pt%, 18.2 mpg); Charles Minlend, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS/hamstring); Tarik Turner, G, 6-6/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 2.3 apg, 15.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Collin Charles, G, 5-10/Fr.; Chudney Gray, G, 6-2/Fr.; Lavor Postell, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Jamaica, N.Y. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (6,008).

5. WEST VIRGINIA

Frontcourt: Damian Owens is a fine rebounder, scorer and defender who needs to add accurate free-throw shooting to his skills. His trips to the line were adventures last season. Power forward Gordon Malone, who showed signs last season of becoming a strong inside force, could push the Mountaineers higher in the standings. But he, too, can't shoot a lick from the line. Brent Solheim will contend with Malone for the starting job. Sandro Varejao will battle for the center job. In a conference noted for

Ascending: St. John's. The Red Storm were a bizarre bunch last season. They beat West Virginia by 15. They lost to West Virginia by 15. They beat Louisville by 22. They lost to Syracuse by 25. Felipe Lopez and Zendon Hamilton won't quite silence their legion of critics, but they will slow them down. The Red Storm will contend for an NCAA bid.

Descending: Connecticut. After a remarkable run—three consecutive regular-season titles—the Huskies will stumble a bit this season. But with coach Jim Calhoun's recruiting skills, the Huskies will return as title contenders soon.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Connecticut guard Ray Allen's. He was the definition of smooth, and he pushed his team to the top of the conference. Freshman Richard Hamilton, a superb athlete, will inherit Allen's position and could keep the Huskies from tumbling.

Most underrated player: Villanova point guard Alvin Williams. He plays steady defense, distributes the ball well and, most of all, wins. With Kerry Kittles off to the NBA, Williams should grab more attention.

Most overrated player: St. John's guard Felipe Lopez. Who else? He once graced more magazine covers than Cindy Crawford. He was hailed by many as the next Michael Jordan. He has yet to come close to his considerable potential.

Coach on the hot seat: Notre Dame's John MacLeod. He was a fine pro coach for the Phoenix Suns, Dallas Mavericks and New York Knicks. He is a gentleman who treats his players with respect. He is a credit to the coaching profession. That said, he has been unable to draw top-quality recruits to South Bend and has been unable to win. Notre Dame has shown patience, but it must be wearing thin. Rutgers' Bob Wenzel also sits in an extremely hot chair.

Best bets: Villanova and Syracuse will fly among the nation's top teams. Boston College will earn an NCAA Tournament bid, and Providence, St. John's, Connecticut and Georgetown will fight for spots. ... Fans in Philadelphia and Syracuse will have mixed feelings about the success of freshmen Tim Thomas and Winfred Walton. They know the better the youngsters play, the more probable their college careers will be brief, perhaps even one season. ... Danya Abrams will push all five of his opponents to the floor on one trip downcourt. He will not be called for a foul. ... Miami's Tim James will throw down a slam that will be shown across the nation and will draw the cheers from the 389 or so fans who will have gathered in Miami Arena. ... Longtime Big East fans will wonder why the conference added Notre Dame, Rutgers and West Virginia. The move spoiled the league's traditional home-and-home schedule while adding little in quality basketball.

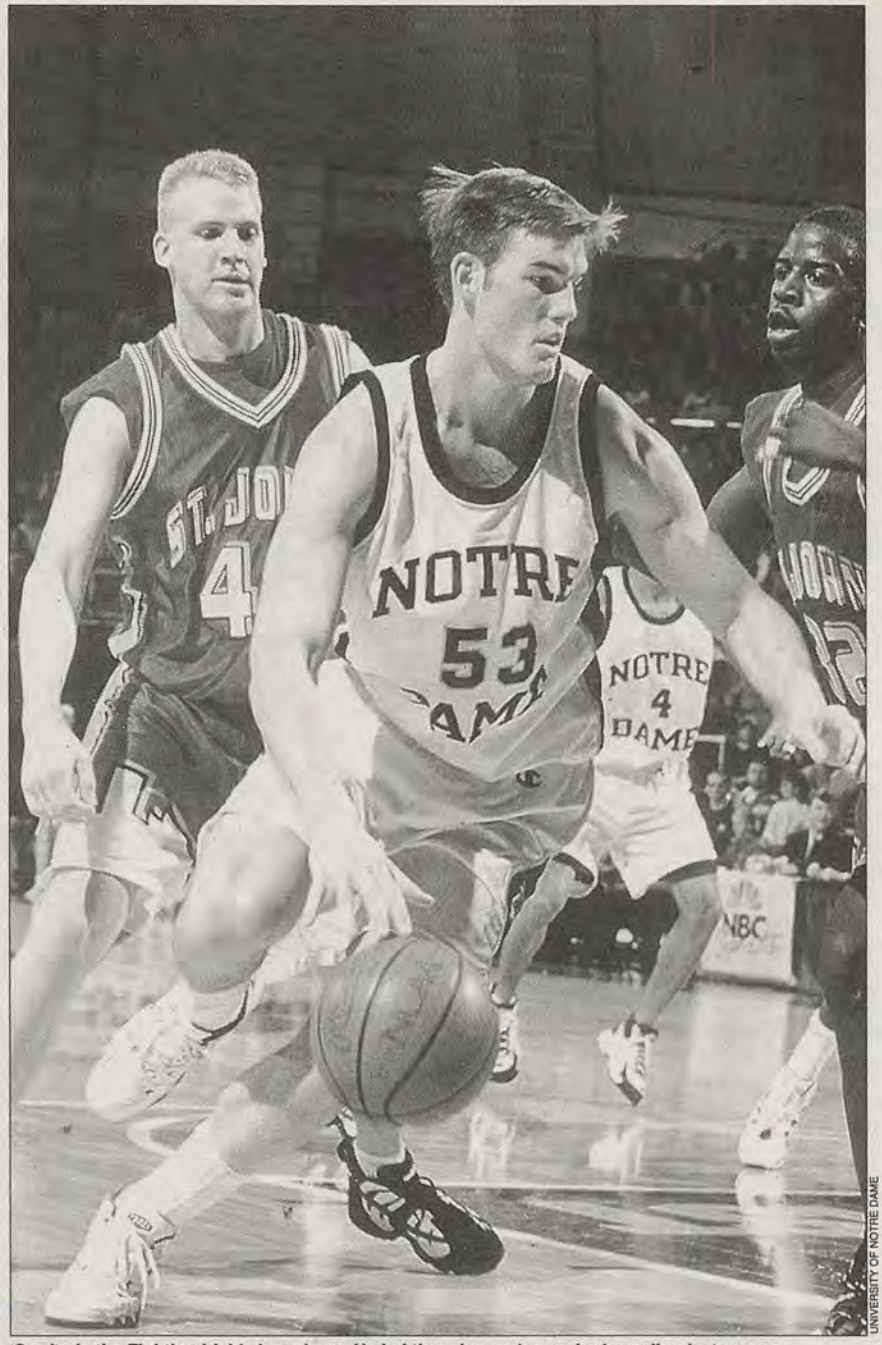
RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Syracuse (F Winfred Walton). Walton could become Syracuse's best freshman since Billy Owens. Jason Hart will start at point guard, and Ramel Lloyd will get minutes at shooting guard.
2. Connecticut (G/F Richard Hamilton).
3. Villanova (F Tim Thomas).
4. Miami (G/F Lucas Barnes).
5. Georgetown (F/C Shamel Jones).
6. Seton Hall (G Shaheen Holloway).
7. West Virginia (F Marcus Goree).
8. St. John's (G/F Lavor Postell).
9. Pittsburgh (F Isaac Hawkins).
10. Providence (F Kofi Pointer).
11. Rutgers (G Johnnie Blake).
12. Notre Dame (G Keith Friel).
13. Boston College (G Damien Foster).

Odds and ends: Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun is feeling unappreciated after finishing 32-3 overall and 17-1 in league play last season. When UConn lost to Mississippi State in the NCAA Tournament, fans and the media questioned Calhoun's coaching. The team has finished 89-13 over the past three seasons—49-5 in the conference—yet has failed to reach the Final Four. "I don't know if 32-3 is a routine record," Calhoun said. "Maybe in your league it is, not in mine." ... Fran Fraschilla watched from Manhattan College as St. John's stumbled last year to a humiliating season. He now must revive the Red Storm program. First, he has to harness the considerable skills of Felipe Lopez. "He can be a very, very good college player," Fraschilla said. "After all the hype and expectations, he suffers from a 'Is that all there is?' perception. He certainly has the athletic ability to put the ball in the basket. I'm looking for him to shoot 7-of-12 in games instead of 7-of-21." Lopez missed at least 10 shots in nine games last season. Fraschilla also must give new life to junior point guard Tarik Turner, once an acclaimed recruit. He has talked to Turner about the careers of former St. John's point David Cain and Syracuse point Lazarus Sims. Both stumbled through the early years of their careers but played superbly as seniors. "With confidence, Tarik can be a good player," Fraschilla said. "Sims and Cain were basically left for dead, and they resurrected. I wouldn't count out Tarik from getting the job done for us." ... Syracuse hired Louis Orr to replace Wayne Morgan as an assistant in the offseason. The rare twist of the hiring is Orr worked as an assistant at conference rival Providence. Orr was a member of Jim Boeheim's first recruiting class at Syracuse in 1976. "I talked to (Providence coach) Pete Gillen," Boeheim said, "and he understood. Nobody likes to lose an assistant, but this is a whole different situation. We were just bringing Louis back here. He's one of ours more than he's one of anybody else's." ◆

—DAVID RAMSEY



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Garrity is the Fighting Irish's key player. He led them in scoring and rebounding last season.

its physical nature, he may the king of the bruisers. But Varejao may struggle to overcome the challenge of JC transfer Brian Lewin. Freshman Marcus Goree could bring needed scoring to the forward position.

Backcourt: Seldon Jefferson is a steady presence at point guard and the one sure thing in this unit. But he is prone to turnovers and launching bricks from 3-point range. Todd Myles, who redshirted last season, could move Jefferson to shooting guard. That position is also where JC transfers Adrian Pledger and Greg Jones will see considerable minutes.

Keys to success: Pledger, Lewin and Jones must step in immediately as scorers and defenders.

Outlook: West Virginia didn't have trouble scoring last season. Its problems were subpar defense and rebounding. Coach Gale Catlett has a veteran squad, but those veterans must prove they are more than mediocre. The loss of guard Greg Simpson, dismissed from the team in the offseason, has drained the team of offensive firepower and much of its creativity. The Mountaineers appear at least a year away from contending for an NCAA berth and giving their fans more to cheer about. It's unfortunate because the WVU Coliseum can be a terrifying place for visiting teams.

MOUNTAINEERS DATA

Coach: Gale Catlett (345-197, 18 years; 471-241 overall, 24 years; 5-10 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Big East 6: 7-11/4th.
Starters lost (1): Cyrus Jones, G (12.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1 spg, 45.6 FG%, 35.3 3-pt%, 25 mpg).
Others lost: Leon Agnew, F/C (3.2 rpg, 53.6 FG%, 13.8 mpg); LeVon Lamb, F (2.4 rpg); Shane Mallett, F (left team); Greg Simpson, G (13.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 77.4 FT%, 25.6 mpg; dismissed from team).
Starters returning (4): Seldon Jefferson, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 5.1 apg, 1 spg, 75.7 FT%, 31 mpg); Gordon Malone, F, 6-11/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1 bpg, 56.0 FG%, 25.4 mpg); Damian Owens, F, 6-5/Jr. (14.6 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1 spg, 1 bpg, 51.3 FG%); Sandro Varejao, C, 6-11/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 51.1 FG%).
Other returnees: Tom Beynon, F, 6-9/Soph.; David Ligouri, G, 6-4/Sr.; Brent Solheim, F, 6-8/Jr. (6.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 48.9 FG%, 72.6 FT%, 18.4 mpg); Jarrod West, G, 5-11/Jr.
Top newcomers: Marcus Goree, F, 6-8/Fr.; Greg Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Brian Lewin, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Todd Myles, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS/appendix); Adrian Pledger, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1989 (Atlantic 10).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Morgantown, W.Va. **Home court:** WVU Coliseum (14,000).

6. NOTRE DAME

Frontcourt: Pat Garrity is the team's star. He is a crafty scorer, a diligent rebounder and a reliable ballhandler. He is not, though, one of those players with limitless potential. He will do well to match his numbers from last season. Marcus Young and Derek Manner will provide rebounding help. Matt Gotsch needs to emerge as a quality center. Gary Bell has scoring potential when his back isn't hurting. If healthy, he could give the Irish a strong set of forwards and help the team climb to mediocrity.

Backcourt: Last season's starting point, freshman Doug Gottlieb, transferred in search of a running program. He left a large void. Antoni Wyche is a stingy defender but a barely adequate ballhandler. Still, he probably will get the job as the Irish's floor leader. There's no other obvious candidate, though Admore White could be the man. Keith Kurowski, Pete Miller and freshman Keith Friel will contend for the shooting guard spot. None looks promising.

Keys to success: Bell must stay healthy and bring some fire to the Irish attack.

Outlook: Notre Dame needed a jolt from its recruiting class to climb out of the Big East basement. That didn't happen. Garrity is a fine player who will find himself surrounded by defenders unless his teammates show they can score. The loss of Gottlieb will severely hurt the team. Pressing teams such as Georgetown and Connecticut could shred the Irish. The offense plodded to the lowest scoring average (66.8) among the conference's teams last season. There's no reason to believe that won't happen again.

FIGHTING IRISH DATA

Coach: John MacLeod (63-80, 5 years; 153-149 overall, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Big East 6: 4-14/6th.
Starters lost (2): Doug Gottlieb, G (4.6 ppg, 5.7 apg, 1.3 spg, 28.8 mpg; transfer); Ryan Hoover, G (13.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.4 spg, 84.5 FT%, 28.3 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): Pat Garrity, F, 6-9/Jr. (17.2 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 33.1 mpg); Matt Gotsch, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 55.8 FG%, 17.7 mpg); Derek Manner, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 21.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Gary Bell, F, 6-4/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 16.7 mpg); Phil Hickey, C, 6-10/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 53.5 FG%, 16.3 mpg); Keith Kurowski, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.2 mpg); Pete Miller, G, 6-5/Sr. (14.1 mpg); Admore White, G, 6-1/Sr. (2.3 apg, 12.2 mpg); Antoni Wyche, G, 6-4/Soph. (13.0 mpg); Marcus Young, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (5.3 rpg, 56.9 FG%, 18.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Keith Friel, G, 6-3/Fr.; David Lalazarian, F, 6-8/Fr.; Todd Palmer, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: South Bend, Ind. **Home court:** Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center (11,418). ◆

David Ramsey is a columnist for the Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

BIG TEN

Conference Rank: 4

By Marc Hansen

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MINNESOTA
2. MICHIGAN
3. PURDUE
4. IOWA
5. INDIANA
6. ILLINOIS
7. PENN STATE
8. WISCONSIN
9. MICHIGAN STATE
10. OHIO STATE
11. NORTHWESTERN

PRESEASON ALL-BIG TEN TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, school	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	KIWANE GARRIS, Illinois	6-2/183	Sr.
G	BOBBY JACKSON, Minnesota	6-1/185	Sr.
F	JESS SETTLES, Iowa	6-7/220	Sr.
F/C	MAURICE TAYLOR, Michigan	6-9/250	Jr.
G	ANDRE WOOLRIDGE, Iowa	6-0/190	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, school	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	CHAD AUSTIN, Purdue	6-2/200	Jr.
F/C	MACEO BASTON, Michigan	6-9/210	Jr.
G	DAN EARL, Penn State	6-4/185	Sr.
F	COURTNEY JAMES, Minnesota	6-8/260	Soph.
F	SAM OKEY, Wisconsin	6-7/240	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BOBBY JACKSON, G, Minnesota

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

BRANDUN HUGHES, G, Michigan

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Pete Lisicky, Penn State.

Best rebounder: Courtney James, Minnesota.

Best playmaker: Andre Woolridge, Iowa.

Best defender: Calvin Booth, Penn State.

Best leaper: Sam Jacobson, Minnesota.

Best under 6-foot: Damon Stringer, Ohio State.

Best over 7-foot: Jason Collier, Indiana.

Most versatile: Jess Settles, Iowa.

Most flamboyant: Geno Carlisle, Northwestern.

Best NBA prospect: Maurice Taylor, Michigan.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Jackson was strong down the stretch for the Gophers last season. Expect more of the same this year.

1. MINNESOTA

Frontcourt: No weakness here. John Thomas, Courtney James and Trevor Winter provide all the size (almost 800 pounds worth) a team could possibly need. You want mobility? Sam Jacobson, Mark Jones and Quincy Lewis can move between guard and forward without a hitch. Nobody else in the Big Ten has this much talent, flexibility and depth.

Backcourt: Bobby Jackson missed the first seven games of last season with a stress fracture in his right foot. A transfer from West Nebraska CC, Jackson wasn't fully recovered until midway through the Big Ten schedule. Splitting time between the point and off-guard, he kept getting stronger, leading the Gophers to an 8-3 record down the stretch and averaging 15.5 points over that span. When Jackson is running the show, half the team is capable of filling in at off-guard. That includes sophomore Charles Thomas and the springy Jacobson, who was hampered by a blockage in his nasal passage last season and fell short of expectations. Junior Eric Harris returns at point guard. Harris, who needs to improve his decision-making, isn't much of a shooter, but he won't need to be. Freshman Russ Archambault will be looking over his shoulder.

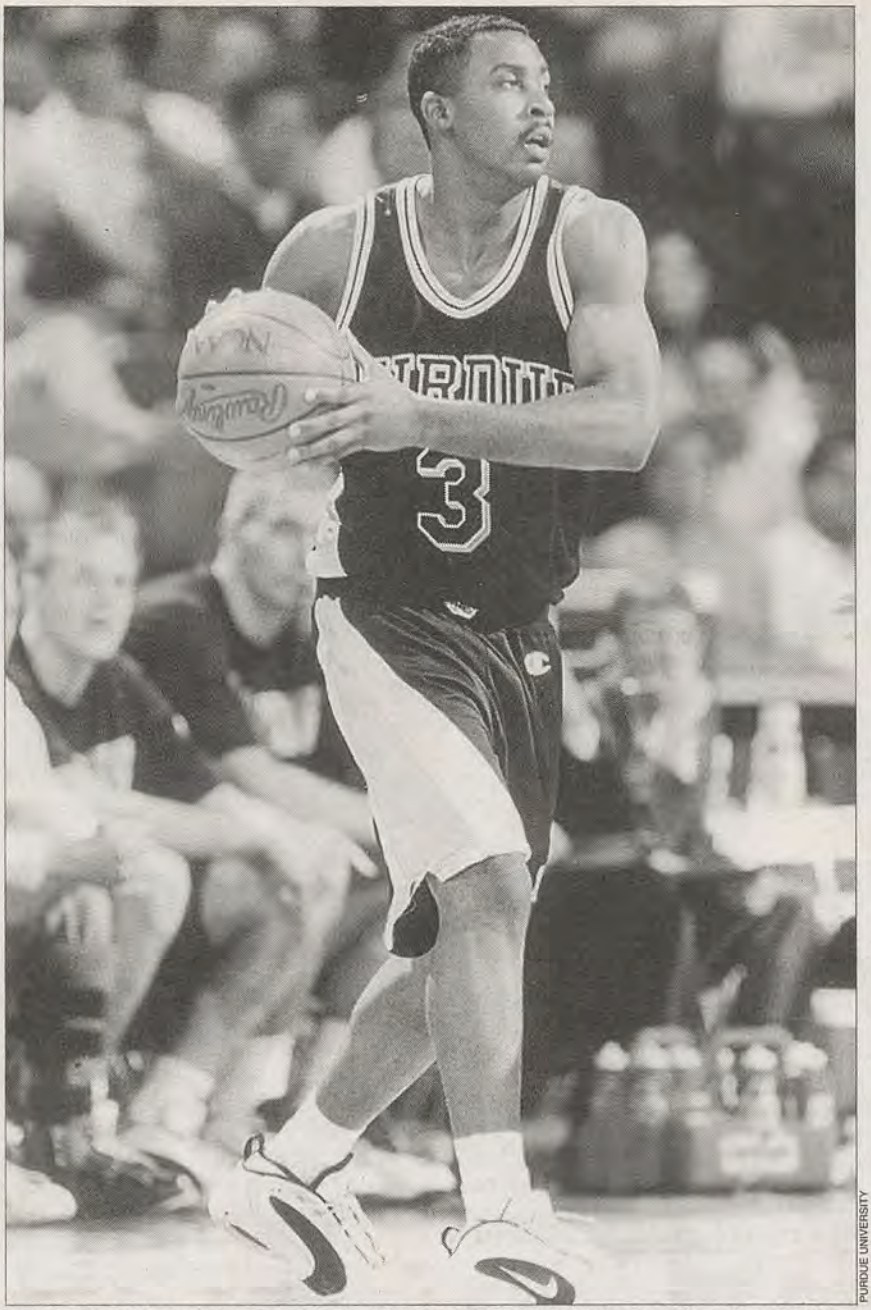
Key to success: Under Clem Haskins, Minnesota has been the consummate Big 10 middle-of-the-pack finisher. True, Haskins has guided the Gophers to the Elite Eight (1990) and Sweet 16 (1989) in the NCAA Tournament and the NIT crown (1993), but Minnesota is one of those teams that can't seem to sniff the Big Ten title. To win their first Big Ten championship since 1981-82, the Gophers must purge themselves of that also-ran mentality.

Outlook: Two deep at every position, Minnesota returns its top six scorers and every starter from a team that won seven of its last nine conference games. Four of those starters were honorable mention All-Big Ten picks. The schedule conspires slightly against them—patsy Northwestern doesn't visit Williams Arena—and shooting accuracy is a concern, but those are about the only negatives in what should be a season full of positives.

GOLDEN GOPHERS DATA

Coach: Clem Haskins (170-137, 10 years; 271-210 overall, 16 years; 7-6 NCAA Tournament record).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.



PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Austin, who led the team in scoring, leads an inexperienced yet talented group of guards at Purdue.

1995-96 record: 19-13. Big Ten: 10-8/T5th. Lost to Tulane in NIT second round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: David Grim, F (6.5 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 73.2 FT%, 18.0 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Eric Harris, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.1 spg, 25.0 mpg); Bobby Jackson, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.1 spg, 78.7 FT%, 27.0 mpg); Sam Jacobson, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.2 spg, 78.9 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 26.0 mpg); Courtney James, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 27.0 mpg); John Thomas, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 26.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Mark Jones, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 45.4 FG%, 18.0 mpg); Quincy Lewis, G/F, 6-7/Soph. (6.7 ppg, 45.5 FG%, 36.6 3-pt%, 13.0 mpg); Miles Tarver, F, 6-8/Soph.; Charles Thomas, G, 6-4/Soph. (10.0 mpg); Trevor Winter, C, 7-0/Sr. (10.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Russ Archambault, G, 6-1/Fr.; Kevin Loge, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Kyle Sanden, F/C, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1982.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Minneapolis. **Home court:** Williams Arena (14,300).

2. MICHIGAN

Frontcourt: After nearly declaring for the NBA after his sophomore season, Maurice Taylor is back for probably one more year. The chiseled junior power forward looks like a lottery pick—and sometimes he even plays like one. But he didn't come to play often enough last season to lift the Wolverines above fifth place. The only Wolverine who seems to get the most out of his ability is Maceo Baston. Watching the slender junior grab rebounds and block shots, you wonder how he does the things he does. With Taylor, you wonder why he doesn't do it more often. Best bet to start the season at small forward is Albert White, another former super prep struggling to become a super collegian. Massive center Robert "Tractor" Traylor is a hard worker, but at 300 pounds, his conditioning is a worry. No longer in the picture is Willie Mitchell, who transferred to UAB. Lightly recruited center Peter Vignier has drawn comparisons to Penn State's Calvin Booth.
Backcourt: The Wolverines probably will start the season with junior Travis Conlan at point and sophomore Louis Bullock at off-guard. If they end the season that way, it could be another frustrating winter in Ann Arbor. JC transfer deluxe Brandun Hughes, who can play both guard positions, might be the savior at the point, but he appears to be a shoot-first type. Don't look now, but Jerod Ward, considered by some the nation's top prep in 1993-94, killed transfer rumors and returns for his junior year. So far, his most eye-catching statistic is number of knee surgeries: two.
Keys to success: Consistency at every position. It also would help if the team could hit an outside shot. Bullock, who played on the U.S. National 22-and-under team with Taylor, is an improving marksman and Hughes has a sweet stroke. Otherwise, this is still the team with the most limited shooting range in the league.
Outlook: Michigan has as much talent and depth as any Big Ten team but Minnesota. But do the Wolverines know how to use it? Do they know how to play the game?

WOLVERINES DATA

Coach: Steve Fisher (160-71, 7 years; 20-6 NCAA Tournament record; won title in '89).
1995-96 record: 20-12. Big Ten: 10-8/T5th. Lost to Texas in NCAA Midwest first round.
Starters lost (1): Dugan Fife, G (4.6 ppg, 84.6 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 23 mpg).
Others lost: Willie Mitchell, F/G (5.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 19 mpg; transfer/UAB); Neal Morton, G/F.
Starters returning (4): Maceo Baston, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 68.2 FG%, 1.3 bpg, 24 mpg); Louis Bullock, G, 6-2/Soph. (13.5 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 84.5 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 13.5 mpg); Travis Conlan, G, 6-5/Jr. (4.5 apg, 2.9 rpg, 4.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 30 mpg); Maurice Taylor, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 51.1 FG%, 28 mpg).
Other returnees: Ron Oliver, G, 6-0/Soph.; Robert Traylor, C, 6-9/Soph. (9.0 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 55.4 FG%, 19 mpg); Jerod Ward, G/F, 6-9/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 21 mpg); Albert White, F/G, 6-6/Soph. (9.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 71.3 FT%, 22 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brandun Hughes, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Peter Vignier, C, 6-11/Fr.
Last league title: 1986.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Ann Arbor, Mich. **Home court:** Crisler Arena (13,562).

3. PURDUE

Frontcourt: After starting 18 games as a freshman, center Brad Miller started only one on last year's 26-6 Big Ten champion—and still earned honorable mention All-Big Ten honors. But Miller lacks the intensity of last year's six seniors; he'll need to pick it up in their absence. He can play forward, run the court, shoot and handle the ball. Power forward Luther Clay came to Purdue a year ago as one of the top 30 high school players in the country, but he never fit in and decided to transfer to Rhode Island. That means David Lesmond and redshirt freshman Brain Cardinal, who are known more as shooters than bangers, along with freshman Gary McQuay must fill the power forward slot. The most celebrated of this year's rookie crop is small forward Michael Robinson. A long-range magician, Robinson will compete for a starting wing spot.
Backcourt: Other than junior Chad Austin, the potential vastly exceeds the experience. Austin, the team's only double-figure scorer last season, is a good shooter who can hit the big shot and play tough defense. Behind him at off-guard is freshman Jaraan Cornell, a member of the U.S. Junior Select team. Gene Keady says Cornell might be the best off-guard from the high school class of '96. At the point, lefty Alan Eldridge will step in

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

for Porter Roberts, with Austin offering help and fleet freshman Mosi Barnes hoping to steal some playing time.

Keys to success: Keeping that edge amd the emergence of a power forward. For the past three years, Purdue has been the hungriest and most mentally tough team in the league. Last season, when Purdue became the first team since Ohio State (1960-62) to win three consecutive outright Big Ten titles, people began to wonder if Keady knew something his coaching colleagues didn't.

Outlook: No team has won four consecutive outright Big Ten titles, and don't count on Purdue to become the first. But don't look for the Boilermakers to drop very far, either. This still is a league without a super power. Yes, the Boilermakers lost four starters and will be young. But they also return their top two scorers and have more talent than ever under Keady.

BOILERMAKERS DATA

Coach: Gene Keady (348-148, 16 years; 386-167 overall, 18 years; 10-13 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 26-6. Big Ten: 15-3/1st. Lost to Georgia in NCAA West second round.
Starters lost (4): Brandon Brantley, C/F (8.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 58.0 FG%, 78.8 FT%, 23.9 mpg); Herb Dove, F (5.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.3 spg, 22.8 mpg); Roy Hairston, F (8.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 1.6 spg, 58.8 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Porter Roberts, G (7.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 4.9 apg, 1.1 spg, 32.0 mpg).
Others lost: Luther Clay, F (transfer/Rhode Island); Todd Foster, G (7.5 ppg, 72.3 FT%, 39.7 3-pt%, 18.9 mpg); Justin Jennings, F (8.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 63.2 FG%, 14.6 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Chad Austin, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.8 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.3 apg, 73.3 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 27.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Alan Eldridge, G, 6-1/Soph.; Paul Gilvydis, F, 6-9/Sr.; David Lesmond, F, 6-8/Jr.; Brad Miller, F/C, 6-11/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 51.8 FG%, 73.8 FT%, 21.3 mpg); Matt ten Dam, C, 7-2/Jr.
Top newcomers: Mosi Barnes, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brian Cardinal, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); B.J. Carretta, G, 6-2/Fr.; Jaraan Cornell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Gary McQuay, F, 6-8/Fr.; Michael Robinson, F/G, 6-6/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.
Site: West Lafayette, Ind. **Home court:** Mackey Arena (14,123).

4. IOWA

Frontcourt: With Russ Millard gone, the Hawkeyes desperately need a center. Some believe Millard, not Jess Settles or Andre Woolridge, was the best player on the team last season, so this is no trifling loss. Redshirt freshman Guy Rucker will start at center. He's bigger than Millard, but will he be better? Not right away. Interior defense was a glaring weakness last season. Come to think of it, so was perimeter defense. Tom Davis has promised the energetic Settles a chance at Kenyon Murray's small forward slot. If that doesn't work, junior Ryan Bowen will move smoothly into the spot. Slender sophomore J.R. Koch scores more than Bowen but lacks athleticism. JC transfer Vernon Simmons could help.

Backcourt: Mad-bomber Chris Kingsbury won't return for his senior season. He wants to play pro ball whether the pros want him or not. A year ago, this would have seemed a major setback for the Hawkeyes, but not anymore. Kingsbury's decision to leave has evoked yawns in Iowa City, where most folks believe the controversial gunner was more trouble than he was worth. The Hawkeyes look for touted freshman Jeff Walker to step into the shooting guard position. League assists leader Woolridge returns for his senior year at the point. With Mon'ter Glasper gone, there's no experience behind him.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Woolridge led the league in assists. He may have to carry even more of the load this year because there is no experienced backup.

Key to success: At 6-9, 235, Rucker's the future. If he isn't ready to play, Iowa won't be ready to challenge for the league title.

Outlook: Last season, two Hawkeyes (Woolridge and Settles) were consensus first-team All-Big Ten selections. Another (Millard) was taken in the NBA draft. Still, they finished fourth. Don't think Davis didn't hear about it. In Iowa, the Davis debate continued through the summer when it looked as if Settles was going to join Kingsbury in jumping to the pros. The furor subsided when Settles changed his mind, but it could pick up again if Iowa fails to at least make a run at first place. The Hawkeyes have enough talent to win their first title since 1978-79, but the odds are against it.

HAWKEYES DATA

Coach: Tom Davis (207-109, 10 years; 481-259 overall, 25 years; 15-9 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 23-9. Big Ten: 11-7/4th. Lost to Arizona in NCAA West second round.
Starters lost (3): Chris Kingsbury, G (11.9 ppg, 79.6 FT%, 22.9 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Russ Millard, C (13.7 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.2 spg, 60.9 FG%, 79.9 FT%, 44.0 3-pt%, 26.9 mpg); Kenyon Murray, F (9.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 56.3 FG%, 27.4 mpg).
Others lost: Trey Bullet, G (transfer/Southern); Mon'ter Glasper, G (4.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.6 spg, 38.6 3-pt%, 22.6 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Jess Settles, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.5 spg, 47.7 FG%, 74.1 FT%, 28.0 mpg); Andre Woolridge, G, 6-0/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, **6.0 apg**, 1.1 spg, 46.9 FG%, 73.5 FT%, 31.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Bowen, F, 6-7/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.3 spg, 60.4 FG%, 20.5 mpg); Greg Helmers, C, 6-9/Jr.; J.R. Koch, F, 6-9/Soph. (2.6 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 10.5 mpg); Kent McCausland, G, 6-2/Soph. (7.5 mpg); Alvin Robinson, F, 6-8/Soph.
Top newcomers: Marcelo Gomes, F, 6-7/Fr.; Ryan Luehrsmann, G, 6-1/Fr.; Guy Rucker, C, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Vernon Simmons, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jeff Walker, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1979 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Iowa City, Iowa. **Home court:** Carver-Hawkeye Arena (15,500).

5. INDIANA

Frontcourt: Mr. Everything is gone. Brian Evans led the league in scoring and ranked high in several other categories last season. Juniors Andrae Patterson and Charlie Miller are extremely talented players and extremely nice guys, but neither seems to realize what it takes to play for a Big Ten contender. Haris Mujezinovic is a big, strong role player who runs the court as well as any big man Bob Knight has had, but the senior isn't going to make anyone forget Evans. Hoosiers fans are counting on Jason Collier, a member of the USA Junior Select team, to lead them back to the promised land. Collier, a 7-foot freshman considered one of the nation's top 20 recruits, has been compared to Christian Laettner and Raef LaFrentz. That could be too much to ask. Junior big men Robbie Eggers and Richard Mandeville haven't shown much—and not because they haven't been given the chance. Redshirt freshman Larry Richardson is another possibility.

Backcourt: Sometimes point guard Neil Reed shoots the lights out. Sometimes he runs the offense like a virtuoso. He rarely does both. Maybe it's time to concentrate on one area or another. Injuries and spells of inconsistency marred Reed's first two years. Since Chris Rowles has transferred, look for a freshman (Michael Lewis, who led the state of Indiana in scoring last year, or A.J. Guyton, a speedster who can shoot) to join Reed. In a pinch, Miller can move from small forward to off-guard, but you wouldn't want him back there all game.

Key to success: Patterson was one of the nation's premier high school seniors in 1993-94 but has yet to elevate his game. He might be the greatest athlete Knight has had, but something is missing.

Outlook: Last year, Indiana had one great player and not much else. Yet the Hoosiers still tied for second, a remarkable achievement considering the lack of talent and backcourt speed. Under Knight, an Indiana team hasn't gone four years without claiming at least a share of a Big Ten championship. With Evans gone, it's not going to happen this year for the inexperienced Hoosiers.

HOOSIERS DATA

Coach: Bob Knight (576-197, 25 years; 678-247 overall, 31 years; 40-17 NCAA Tournament record; won titles in '76, '81, '87).
1995-96 record: 19-12. Big Ten: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to Boston College in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost (2): Brian Evans, F (**21.2 ppg**, 7.1 rpg, 4.1 apg, 1.4 spg, 84.7 FT%, 44.7 3-pt%, 37.3 mpg); Todd Lindeman, C (9.8 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 61.8 FG%, 20.3 mpg).
Others lost: Kevin Lemme, G; Lou Moore, F (transfer/Oklahoma); Chris Rowles, G (9.0 mpg; transfer/South Dakota); Sherron Wilkerson, G (transfer/Rio Grande, Ohio).
Starters returning (3): Charlie Miller, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.1 apg, 46.9 FG%, 30.2 mpg); Andrae Patterson, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 46.1 FG%, 73.7 FT%, 35.1

Illinois' Garris is a top-notch point guard who will spend some time at off-guard this season.

3-pt%, 25.9 mpg); Neil Reed, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 4.4 apg, 1.2 spg, 45.5 FG%, 80.2 FT%, 45.5 3-pt%, 32.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Robbie Eggers, F, 6-10/Jr. (9.7 mpg); Richard Mandeville, C, 7-0/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 10.9 mpg); Haris Mujezinovic, C/F, 6-9/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 58.3 FG%, 14.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jason Collier, C/F, 7-0/Fr.; A.J. Guyton, G, 6-1/Fr.; Michael Lewis, G, 6-3/Fr.; Luke Jimenez, G, 6-3/Fr.; Larry Richardson, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS).
Last league title: 1993.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1985.
Site: Bloomington, Ind. **Home court:** Assembly Hall (17,357).

6. ILLINOIS

Frontcourt: Illinois was one of three Big Ten teams with a negative rebounding margin last season, and only Northwestern was worse on the defensive boards. With the usual suspects—Jerry Hester, Bryant Notree, Jerry Gee and Chris Gandy—returning, it would be wishful thinking to expect vast improvement. Ryan Blackwell's transfer to Syracuse won't help matters. Help may come from two burly freshmen: 6-7, 230-pound Victor Chukwudebe, whose stated goal is to lead the league in rebounding, and 6-9, 275-pound Fess Hawkins. Hester has a nice touch from the outside. The versatile, hard-working Notree might be the best player on the team. Gee played big in December, but scored in double figures just three times and grabbed at least 10 rebounds only twice in conference play. Gandy is a good shooter who posted some big numbers late in the season. But the lack of a true center figures to keep the Illini out of title contention.

Backcourt: Kiwane Garris, one of the most talented players in the league, is back for one more year. He missed six games and parts of several others with various injuries last season but still led the team in scoring and steals. Besides being a record-setting free-throw shooter, Garris should finish no lower than second on Illinois' career scoring list. He'll start at point, but could spend plenty of time showcasing his offensive wares at off-guard. How much time will depend on JC transfer Halim Abdullah and the continued development of Kevin Turner. Matt Heldman filled in admirably last season for Garris.

Key to success: The motivational skills of Lon Kruger, who took Florida to the 1994 Final Four. Judging by last year's ninth-place finish, it's obvious Lou Henson wasn't going anywhere with this group. Henson, who retired after 21 seasons in Champaign, wasn't bottom-fishing when he recruited players like Garris, Gee, Hester and Notree. It'll be up to Kruger, a noted tactician who some think can't recruit, to supply the missing spark.

Outlook: Sure, almost everybody returns—four starters and seven of the top eight scorers—but that isn't necessarily a good thing. Besides Garris, only Notree earned as much as honorable mention honors in All-Big Ten voting. The lack of experienced inside muscle figures to doom Illinois again. But don't underestimate Kruger's impact.

FIGHTING ILLINI DATA

Coach: Lon Kruger (1st year; 237-185 overall, 14 years; 8-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-13. Big Ten: 7-11/9th. Lost to Alabama in NIT first round.
Starters lost (1): Richard Keene, G (10.2 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.3 spg, 81.0 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 30.0 mpg).
Others lost: Ryan Blackwell, F (2.9 rpg, 75.6 FT%, 13.0 mpg; transfer/Syracuse); Brett Robisch, C (10.0 mpg; transfer/Oklahoma State).
Starters returning (4): Kiwane Garris, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.7 spg, **86.2 FT%**, 31.0 mpg); Jerry Gee, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 50.9 FG%, 25.0 mpg); Jerry Hester, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 70.8 FT%, 38.8 3-pt%, 27.0 mpg); Bryant Notree, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 51.5 FG%, 36.2 3-pt%, 25.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Chris Gandy, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 19.0 mpg); Matt Heldman, G, 6-0/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 88.6 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 15.0 mpg); Brian Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr.; Kevin Turner, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.5 ppg, 16.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Halim Abdullah, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC); Victor Chukwudebe, F, 6-7/Fr.; Fess Hawkins, C, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1984 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Champaign, Ill. **Home court:** Assembly Hall (16,450).

7. PENN STATE

Frontcourt: Lose two fifth-year seniors, gain one. Though Matt Gaudio and Glenn Sekunda are gone, small forward Rahsaan Carlton should be back after an arthritic right knee forced him to miss last season. That gives Penn State four returning players with starting experience. Senior Phil "Big House" Williams, who can screen out an entire team with his 265 pounds, will battle 250-pound sophomore Jarrett Stephens for the power forward spot. Calvin Booth, the league's top shot blocker in '95-96, returns to wreak more havoc at center. A few rebounds from the spindly Booth would be a huge help.

Backcourt: Dan Earl, the wily senior point guard, and Pete Lisicky, the sharp-shooting junior off-guard who played for the U.S. National 22-and-under squad, could be the best duo in the league. They'd better stay healthy because the drop-off in experience is steep. Donovan Williams is no longer around to provide defense and quickness. Swingman Greg Stevenson is the Lions' top recruit.

Key to success: Carlton started 29 of 32 games in 1994-95 and averaged 24 minutes. In a NIT game at Nebraska that year, Carlton scored 19 points to help rally the Nittany Lions to victory. He hasn't been the most consistent player, but Carlton could be the difference between another season like last year and a second-division finish.

Outlook: Last season, the Nittany Lions celebrated Jerry Dunn's first season as coach by winning their first 13 games. The best start in school history gave the Lions their first national ranking in 31 years. On February 17, they were ranked ninth and

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

battling No. 11 Purdue for first place. Alas, they lost en route to dropping their last four Big Ten road games and finished the season with a loss to Arkansas in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. Clearly, the momentum has disappeared. If the Lions can't rediscover the magic, they'll be walking the line between the first and second division.

NITTANY LIONS DATA

Coach: Jerry Dunn (21-7, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-7. Big Ten: 12-6/T2nd. Lost to Arkansas in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost (2): Matt Gaudio, F (13.1 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1 spg, 52.0 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 40.7 3-pt%, 27.1 mpg); Glenn Sekunda, F (13.0 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2 apg, 79.4 FT%, 38.9 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Others lost: Damien McKnight, G (9.4 mpg; transfer/Florida International); Chris Rogers, C; Donovan Williams, G (4.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1 spg, 45.7 FG%, 72.7 FT%, 16.5 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Calvin Booth, C, 6-11/Soph. (9.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg, **3.6 bpg**, 54.9 FG%, 23.9 mpg); Dan Earl, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 5.4 apg, **1.7 spg**, 47.6 FG%, 41.7 3-pt%, 30.9 mpg); Pete Lisicky, G, 6-4/Jr. (13.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1 spg, 48.3 FG%, 77.8 FT%, **47.1 3-pt%**, 30.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Rahsaan Carlton, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS/knee); Jeremy Metzger, C, 6-10/Sr. (2.1 rpg, 9.6 mpg); Jarrett Stephens, F, 6-6/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 7.5 mpg); Phil Williams, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (5.1 rpg, 16.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ryan Bailey, G, 6-2/Fr.; Titus Ivory, G, 6-4/Fr.; Aaron Jack, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Carl Jackson, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; Greg Stevenson, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1977 (tie, Atlantic 10 Western).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: University Park, Pa. **Home court:** Bryce Jordan Center (15,300).

8. WISCONSIN

Frontcourt: The Badgers might not win a Big Ten title, but this front line won't let anybody push it around. Sophomore Sam Okey, the Big Ten Freshman of the Year, has everything except a blistering outside shot. Even so, Dick Bennett wants to play him at small forward. If that works out, junior Sean Daugherty will get the nod at power forward and senior Paul Grant, a transfer from Boston College, will play center. That trio will give the Badgers an average of almost 240 pounds across the front line.

Backcourt: The top three candidates can play either guard position. Sophomore Hennssy Auriantal is a defensive live wire who played the point last season after Darnell Hoskins transferred to Dayton nine games into the season and Sean Mason hurt a knee in the Big Ten opener. Auriantal might move to off-guard, though, to make room for JC transfer Ty Calderwood. Duany Duany—that's not a typo—is back after breaking his right foot early in the season. He's the best shooter of the bunch. Combine his marksmanship, Mason's ability to penetrate and Auriantal's defense and you have the complete guard. Wing player Mosezell Peterson still isn't ready to play after tearing up a knee in the NIT.

Key to success: A little help for Okey, the first player in Big Ten history to lead his team in points, rebounds, assists and blocks. While that's a heck of an individual accomplishment, it doesn't say much for the team.

Outlook: You have to like what Dick Bennett did in his first season. He coached the Badgers to 17 victories with just eight scholarship players. Only two Wisconsin teams in the past 54 years had won more. But while Bennett's coaching was masterly last season, the league was a shadow of its

Ascending: Minnesota. After three consecutive 10-8 Big Ten seasons, the perennial hump team finally breaks from the pack. This season, the Gophers will be as good on the floor as they are on paper. A notoriously bad road team? Not last season, when Minnesota was 4-5. Only Purdue had more success in alien league arenas.

Descending: Purdue. No fooling. Seriously. We really mean it this time. No stars plus no seniors equals no fourth consecutive title. The Boilers won't descend far and they won't descend for long. But after three consecutive outright crowns, third place seems like a nose dive.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Indiana forward Brian Evans'. Last season, he ranked among league leaders in every category except blocks. Andrae Patterson looks as if he should show up in every category, including blocks. But in his first two years, he has been a relative no-show.

Most underrated: Minnesota center John Thomas. When it comes to the Gophers, everyone talks about Sam Jacobson, Bobby Jackson, Courtney James and Quincy Lewis. But this 265-pounder is a load in the paint.

Most overrated: Northwestern guard Geno Carlisle. He looks like a great player. Having been named one of 16 finalists for the U.S. National 22-and-under team, he must be great. What's more, he was a consensus first-team All-Big Ten selection. So what's the problem? His 19.7 points per game were the product of 39.3 percent shooting. In Big Ten play, Carlisle attempted 36 more shots than Brian Evans, the league scoring champ, and made seven fewer. If he's that good, how come the Wildcats were that bad?

Coach on the hot seat: Ohio State's Randy Ayers. He specializes in recruiting 'em, then booting 'em. Last season, he kicked two more players off the team for allegedly breaking into cars. Now comes imposing JC transfer Ed Jenkins, who hasn't exactly been a Boy Scout. Forget about Ayers' recruiting mistakes for a second and consider Ohio State's fan support. Although attendance was up last year, the Buckeyes had only two sellouts. That can't continue, especially with a new arena in the works.

Best bets: Even with six teams in the NCAA Tournament, the Big Ten will miss the Final Four for the fourth year in a row. But at least one team will make it to the Sweet 16. The Big Ten coaches will sound like a broken record saying, "These things go in cycles." ... Some day, new Illinois coach Lon Kruger will win a Big Ten title in Champaign, but the low-key Kruger's greatest accomplishment will be making Lou Henson look like a party animal. ... Locked in a state of denial, the denizens of Bloomington, Ind., will refuse to acknowledge the fact that the premier program in the state resides in West Lafayette. ... Dick Bennett's Wisconsin Badgers won't make the NCAA Tournament, but nobody will want to play them. ... Northwestern's continued football success will hurt Ricky Byrdsong more than it helps—all those comparisons. ... Michigan's players will wish the Fab Five never existed.

Odds and ends: As usual, Michigan and Michigan State play twice this season, but only one of the meetings counts in the Big Ten standings. On January 25, Michigan travels to the Breslin Center for a—yes—non-conference game. ... Indiana's top recruit, center Jason Collier, is from Springfield, Ohio, which also happens to be the hometown of Buckeyes coach Randy Ayers. The hometown link should have been a plus for Ayers, but Collier didn't even make an official visit to Ohio State. ... Wisconsin's Sam Okey was only the second freshman in Big Ten history to record 400 points, 200 rebounds and 100 assists in a season. The first fruitful frosh? Magic Johnson. ... For once, Minnesota didn't fade down the stretch last season. In fact, the Gophers' 7-2 second-half record was their best ever. Still, they didn't make the NCAA Tournament. The difference was probably an early loss to Clemson, which slid into the tournament under the wire. ... Insiders at Michigan say Robert "Tractor" Traylor is a born leader. In that respect, he reminds the Wolverines' coaching staff of Juwan Howard. Now, if he can only mimic Howard's consistency. ... After one season, Penn State is still perfect in the 15,300-seat Bryce Jordan Center. All victories. All sellouts. The home winning streak, which started in Rec Hall, stands at 18. ... Michigan State is thrilled with its recruiting class but puzzled by point guard Mateen Cleaves' mysterious back and leg pain that plagued him during the summer. Said coach Tom Izzo, "The doctors don't see any rhyme or reason for it." ... Over the summer, Ohio State became the first college team to play and conduct clinics in South Africa. The coaches and players conducted one session in a cloud of smoke on an outdoor court. Nearby fields had been set on fire the day before. ◆

—MARC HANSEN

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Purdue (F Michael Robinson). The Boilermakers put those three consecutive Big Ten titles to good use on the recruiting trail. With Robinson, G Jaraan Cornell, F Gary McQuay, G Mosi Barnes and G B.J. Carretta, this is a top 10 class.
2. Michigan State (G Mateen Cleaves).
3. Indiana (C Jason Collier).
4. Michigan (G Brandun Hughes).
5. Iowa (G Jeff Walker).
6. Minnesota (G Russ Archambault).
7. Ohio State (C Ed Jenkins).
8. Illinois (F Victor Chukwudebe).
9. Penn State (G/F Greg Stevenson).
10. Northwestern (F Carvell Ammons).
11. Wisconsin (G Ty Calderwood).

old self. Don't expect the Big Ten to be down much longer. So until the Badgers, who have only eight scholarship players on their roster, get a few more Okeys, they're bound for the second division.

BADGERS DATA

Coach: Dick Bennett (17-15, 1 year; 204-124 overall, 11 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-15. Big Ten: 8-10/8th. Lost to Illinois State in NIT second round.
Starters lost (1): Osita Nwachukwu, F/C (5.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 49.6 FG%, 22.6 mpg).
Others lost: Shawn Carlin, F/G (37.5 3-pt%, 16.2 mpg); Jeremy Hall, G (7.0 ppg, 2.1 apg, 37.1 3-pt%, 18.8 mpg; transfer/Eastern Kentucky).
Starters returning (4): Hennssy Auriantal, G, 6-1/Soph. (8.7 ppg, 2.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 45.1 FG%, 39.8 3-pt%, 28.3 mpg); Sean Daugherty, F/C, 6-10/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 72.9 FT%, 31.1 mpg); Sam Okey, F, 6-7/Soph. (13.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 1.3 bpg, 70.4 FT%, 32.0 mpg); Mosezell Peterson, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 73.8 FT%, 27.5 mpg; expected to redshirt because of knee injury).
Other returnees: Booker Coleman, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (8.6 mpg); Mike Kosolcharoen, G, 6-1/Soph.; Sean Mason, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 1.2 spg, 26.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ty Calderwood, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Duany Duany, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS/foot); Paul Grant, C, 6-11/Sr. (transfer/Boston College); Adam Shafer, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Villanova).
Last league title: 1947.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Madison, Wis. **Home court:** Wisconsin Field House (11,500).

9. MICHIGAN STATE

Frontcourt: The Spartans start from scratch after losing their top scorer (Quinton Brooks) and top rebounder (Jamie Feick). Jon Garavaglia, who averaged 5.1 points and 4.5 rebounds, and highly regarded sophomore Antonio Smith will do their best to take up the slack. On the upside, the Spartans gain a legitimate shot blocker in Dujuan Wiley, a terrific athlete who batted away a school-record 156 shots last year for Wabash Valley (Ill.) JC. Second-year coach Tom Izzo says freshman A.J. Granger could be a surprise.
Backcourt: A soft spot last season, a major concern now. The hope in East Lansing is that freshman Mateen Cleaves lives up to his reputation as one of the top point guard prospects in the nation. Thomas Kelley, the incumbent at lead guard, was inconsistent. Versatile Ray Weathers is the team's leading returning scorer, but he and Kelley had the misfortune last season of following Shawn Respert and Eric Snow. At this point, it appears that neither Weathers nor Kelley will be following Respert and Snow into the NBA.
Key to success: The newcomers must deliver. Somebody has to. Only Northwestern averaged fewer assists last season, but even the Wildcats had a better turnover margin than Michigan State, which finished last in the category. The Spartans committed almost four more turnovers a game than they forced. Then, when they got the ball into the right hands, those right hands shot only 42.7 percent. That simply can't continue.
Outlook: The Spartans signed the second-best recruiting class, behind Purdue, in the Big Ten, but this league can be tough on the uninitiated. Michigan State is still a few years away. The Spartans opened the post-Jud Heathcote era by finishing .500. With all the turnover (and turnovers), another .500 season should be expected.

SPARTANS DATA

Coach: Tom Izzo (16-16, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 16-16. Big Ten: 9-9/7th. Lost to Fresno State in NIT second round.
Starters lost (2): Quinton Brooks, F (16.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, **56.4 FG%**, 75.0 FT%, 27.4 mpg); Jamie Feick, C (10.1 ppg, **9.5 rpg**, 2.3 apg, 30.8 mpg).
Others lost: Daimon Beathea, F (5.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 20.6 mpg); David Hart, G; Steve Nicodemus, G; Mike Respert, G (7.5 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Thomas Kelley, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 3.6 apg, 79.0 FT%, 25.6 mpg); Antonio Smith, F, 6-8/Soph. (4.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 19.4 mpg); Ray Weathers, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 41.9 3-pt%, 29.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Jon Garavaglia, F, 6-9/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 20.7 mpg); Jason Klein, G/F, 6-7/Soph. (9.6 mpg); Anthony Mull, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.6 mpg); Steve Polonowski, F, 6-9/Sr.
Top newcomers: Mateen Cleaves, G, 6-2/Fr.; A.J. Granger, F, 6-9/Fr.; Ken Miller, C, 6-10/Fr.; Morris Peterson, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS/finger); David Thomas, G/F, 6-7/Fr.; Jason Webber, G/F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Dujuan Wiley, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: East Lansing, Mich. **Home court:** Breslin Center (15,138).

10. OHIO STATE

Frontcourt: Any team would be glad to have Shaun Stonerook and Jermaine Tate, both of whom saw considerable time as freshmen. The arrival of 278-pound center Ed Jenkins, a transfer from national junior college champion Sullivan College (Ky.), could allow Tate to move to power forward from center, Stonerook to small forward from power forward and would give the Buckeyes much-needed beef. Tate came on strong at the end of the season, averaging 13.5 points in the last six games. Stonerook could turn out to be one of the most versatile players in the league. Jason Singleton, the team's best athlete, can slide over from off-guard. This group needs to shoot better.
Backcourt: Little Damon Stringer, a former Ohio Mr. Basketball, wasn't one of the better point guards in the league last year, but what freshman ever is? Neshaun Coleman started the final eight games at off-guard, but here's a telling fact: Coleman was the only Buckeye to pile up more assists than turnovers. If that doesn't change drastically, Ohio State will be challenging Northwestern for 11th place.
Key to success: Last season, no Buckeye earned postseason honors. No All-Big Ten first-teamers, no second-teamers, no third-teamers, no honorable mention picks. Ohio State was the only team in the league to be shut out. It's good to be young, but only if the young are good. The jury is still out on this team. Someone must step forward, and fast. Will it be Jenkins? Maybe, but he didn't stand out in the junior college tournament.
Outlook: If the sophomore jinx hits this team, it'll hit hard. The Buckeyes could very well start five sophs. The last Big Ten team to do that—Michigan in 1992-93—finished second in the country. The Fab Five was an aberration. Unless the talent develops a lot faster, the baby Bucks are a 10th-place team.

BUCKEYES DATA

Coach: Randy Ayers (114-91, 7 years; 6-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-17. Big Ten: 3-15/10th.
Starters lost (1): Rick Yudt, F (10.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 85.0 FT%, 38.4 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg).
Others lost: Steve Belter, C (4.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 18.8 mpg); Jami Bosley, G (5.6 ppg, 1.3 spg, 17.4 mpg; transfer/Akron); Scott Gradney, F (dismissed from team); Marlon Minifee, F (quit team).
Starters returning (4): Neshaun Coleman, G, 6-3/Soph. (7.0 ppg, 2.3 apg, 71.0 FT%, 24.7 mpg); Shaun Stonerook, F, 6-7/Soph. (8.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.4 spg, 51.0 FG%, 70.2 FT%, 29.5 mpg); Damon Stringer, G, 5-11/Soph. (11.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 74.2 FT%, 27.6 mpg); Jermaine Tate, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (11.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 56.9 FG%, 28.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Carlos Davis, G, 6-4/Jr.; Don Jantonio, G, 6-2/Sr. (7.8 mpg); John Lumpkin, C, 6-9/Jr. (RS/foot); Jason Singleton, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 51.2 FG%, 16.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Trent Jackson, G, 6-4/Fr.; Ed Jenkins, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Sean Tucker, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Columbus, Ohio. **Home court:** St. John Arena (13,272).

11. NORTHWESTERN

Frontcourt: The Wildcats can finish last with or without Evan Eschmeyer, the 6-11 junior center who finally played an entire season after missing his first two campaigns with a stress fracture in his right foot. Without him, though, they're doomed. He's as valuable as anyone on the team, including All-American candidate Geno Carlisle. In Big Ten games, Eschmeyer was third in the league in rebounding. At small forward, junior Joe Branch was a non-conference dynamo and a conference-season disappointment. A broken foot caused sophomore Joe Harmsen to miss 10 of the Wildcats' first 11 games, but he's back at power forward. Freshmen Carvell Ammons and Aron Molnar, a big Canadian, could contribute immediately.
Backcourt: Last season, Carlisle became the first Wildcat to win first-team All-Big Ten honors in 19 years. The junior can score with the best of them; he also can run the offense. Because Ricky Byrdsong doesn't want one player doing everything, senior Jevon Johnson or sophomore Julian Bonner will start at the point. Johnson was Northwestern's assists leader last year. Nate Pomeday and Sean Hanlon will chip in.
Key to success: A little balance would be nice. Carlisle threw up 433 shots last season. No other Wildcat attempted more than 200. That's a recipe for 11th place.
Outlook: Alas, the school's football success hasn't rubbed off on the basketball team. To succeed, the Wildcats must be lucky as well as good, and last season they were neither. The team had so many health problems, assistants Shawn Parrish and Jamal Meeks spent more time practicing than coaching. That's partly why the Wildcats finished ninth, 10th or 11th in every Big Ten team category except one (they were seventh in blocks). Even with better luck, they'll still have a hard time avoiding another trip to the cellar, Northwestern's home 11 of the past 12 seasons.

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Ricky Byrdsong (27-56, 3 years; 80-143 overall, 8 years).
1995-96 record: 7-20. Big Ten: 2-16/11th.
Starters lost (1): Brian Chamberlain, F (4.9 rpg, 22.0 mpg).
Others lost: Craig Duerksen, G (4.3 ppg, 71.8 FT%, 15.7 mpg); Nick Knapp, G (left school); Dan Kreft, C (11.0 mpg); Matt Moran, F (transfer/Bradley).
Starters returning (4): Joe Branch, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 27.4 mpg); Geno Carlisle, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.7 apg, 77.3 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 35.2 mpg); Evan Eschmeyer, C, 6-11/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 56.0 FG%, 25.6 mpg); Jevon Johnson, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.8 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 81.6 FT%, 25.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Julian Bonner, G, 6-1/Soph. (4.1 ppg, 14.2 mpg); Joe Harmsen, F, 6-10/Soph. (4.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 18.3 mpg); Nate Pomeday, G, 6-3/Soph.
Top newcomers: Carvell Ammons, F, 6-6/Fr.; Sean Hanlon, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS/collarbone); Aron Molnar, C, 6-11/Fr.
Last league title: 1933 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Evanston, Ill. **Home court:** Welsh-Ryan Arena (8,117). ◆

Marc Hansen is a columnist for the Des Moines (Iowa) Register.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

WAC

Conference Rank: 5

By Chris Tomasson and Hank Wesch

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

MOUNTAIN DIVISION	PACIFIC DIVISION
1. UTAH	1. FRESNO ST.
2. NEW MEXICO	2. UNLV
3. TULSA	3. WYOMING
4. RICE	4. HAWAII
5. TCU	5. SAN DIEGO ST.
6. BRIGHAM YOUNG	6. COLORADO ST.
7. TEXAS-EL PASO	7. SAN JOSE ST.
8. SMU	8. AIR FORCE

ALL-WAC TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	OLIVIER SAINT-JEAN, San Jose St.	6-6/225	Jr.
G	SHEA SEALS, Tulsa	6-5/200	Sr.
C	KENNY THOMAS, New Mexico	6-9/250	Soph.
F	KEITH VAN HORN, Utah	6-9/235	Sr.
G	DOMINICK YOUNG, Fresno State	5-10/170	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
C	MICHAEL DOLEAC,Utah	6-11/265	Jr.
C	SHAUN IGO, Rice	6-11/220	Sr.
G	BRYON RUFFNER, BYU	6-6/195	Sr.
G	CHARLES SMITH, New Mexico	6-4/185	Sr.
C	DAMION WALKER, TCU	6-8/220	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

KEITH VAN HORN
F, Utah

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

KEON CLARK, C, UNLV

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Keith Van Horn, Utah.

Best rebounder: HL Coleman, Wyoming.

Best playmaker: Andre Miller, Utah.

Best defender: HL Coleman, Wyoming.

Best leaper: Charles Smith, New Mexico.

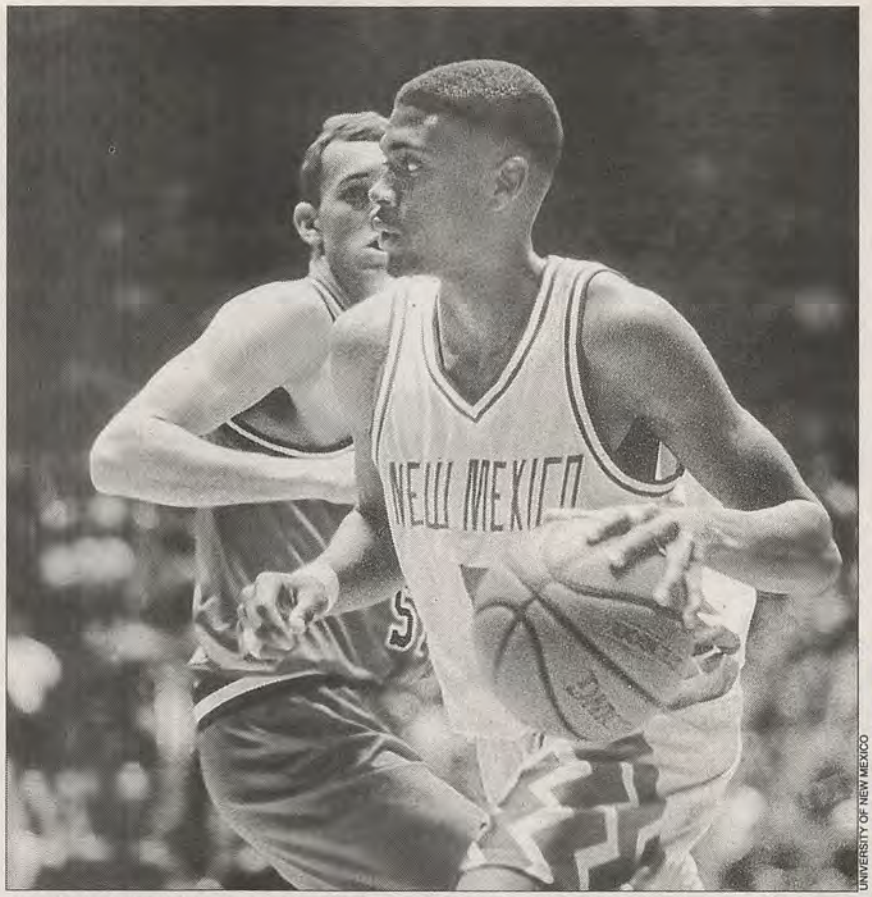
Best under 6 foot: Dominick Young, Fresno State.

Best over 7 foot: Seth Sundberg, Hawaii.

Most versatile: Shea Seals, Tulsa.

Most flamboyant: Dominick Young, Fresno State.

Best NBA prospect: Keith Van Horn, Utah.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

New Mexico's Smith has become a solid all-around player, improving his shooting and his defense.

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

1. UTAH

Frontcourt: Coach Rick Majerus undoubtedly treated himself to a very large meal upon hearing that All-American forward Keith Van Horn would return for his senior season. Van Horn has won consecutive league MVP awards and could become the first WAC player to win three. The Utes are in great shape at center with Michael Doleac as the starter, but reserve Ben Melmeth left the team to play professionally in his native Australia. Finnish import Hanno Mohola may fill the void. The Utes also must find a replacement for Brandon Jessie at small forward. Athletic sophomore Ashante Johnson, an academic casualty last season, is the leading candidate.

Backcourt: Majerus entered last season a bit antsy because he had a new starting backcourt. He no longer needs to fret. Andre Miller took over as the starting point guard after sitting out his freshman season as a nonqualifier. He made the WAC's all-newcomer team and developed into one of the best pure points in the league. Shooting guard Ben Caton sank nearly 40 percent of his 3-point attempts last season. The Utes lost sixth-man extraordinaire Mark Rydalch, but they gain heralded freshman David Jackson.

Keys to success: Doleac needs to emerge as a top-notch center, which would take a lot of pressure off Van Horn. Johnson, as Miller did, needs to shed the mothballs after sitting out a season.

Outlook: Majerus is no dummy. He turned down the St. John's job and declined to look at some other opportunities because he knows this is the best team he has had. The Utes have a chance to become the first WAC team to go to the Final Four since Utah in 1966 (Texas-El Paso was an independent when it won the '66 national title).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

UTES DATA

Coach: Rick Majerus (151-51, 7 years; 250-103 overall, 12 years; 7-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 27-7. WAC: 15-3/1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest semifinal.
Starters lost (1): Brandon Jessie, F (13.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 45.3 FG%, 78.2 FT%, 40.4 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg).
Others lost: Doug Chapman, F; Andy Jensen, F; Paul Jonas, G (transfer/Snow College (Utah)); Doug Meacham, G; Ben Melmeth, C/F (4.3 rpg, 17.2 mpg; pursuing pro career in Australia); Mark Rydalch, G (7.4 ppg, 2.3 apg, 89.4 FT%, 40.7 3-pt%, 20.9 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Ben Caton, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 2.3 apg, 49.0 FG%, 85.9 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 24.6 mpg); Michael Doleac, C, 6-11/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 79.3 FT%, 24.1 mpg); Andre Miller, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1 spg, 53.3 FG%, 25.6 mpg); Keith Van Horn, F, 6-9/Sr. (21.4 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 53.8 FG%, 85.1 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 30.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Will Carlton, F, 6-9/Soph.; Drew Hansen, G, 6-5/Jr. (77.8 FT%, 12.7 mpg); Kelly Leonard, F, 6-5/Sr.; Terry Preston, G, 5-11/Sr. (11.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: David Jackson, G, 6-4/Fr.; Ashante Johnson, 6-8/Fr. Soph. (Prop. 48); Jeff Johnson, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Jordie McTavish, G, 6-0/Fr.; Hanno Mohola, C/F, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Salt Lake City. **Home court:** Huntsman Center (15,000).

2. NEW MEXICO

Frontcourt: WAC opponents got plenty of bruises trying to stop Kenny Thomas at center. Now they may see him at power forward. The development of center Daniel Santiago, who played for the Puerto Rican Olympic team, could force coach Dave

Bliss to start the 7-1 Santiago and move Thomas, last season's WAC Newcomer of the Year. Another option is Ben Baum, a transfer from Oklahoma State who can play center and forward. And don't forget that last season's starter at power forward, Greg Schornstein, is back and has put on 20 pounds of muscle. The only certainty in the frontcourt is that Clayton Shields, whom Bliss called the most improved player on the team last season, will start on the wing.

Backcourt: Charles Smith, who early in his career was mainly a slasher to the basket, has become a complete player. His 3-point shooting accuracy improved from 26.7 percent in 1994-95 to 36.7 last season and he was named to the WAC's all-defensive team. Around midseason, Smith should pass Luc Longley as the Lobos' all-time leading scorer. Point guard David Gibson developed into the team leader and rarely turned the ball over, but his outside shot was such a liability that opponents regularly played far off him. Royce Olney, who made 43.7 percent of his 3-point attempts, provides instant offense off the bench. Freshman Lamont Long should make an immediate impact.

Keys to success: Thomas ballooned to 280 pounds in June, 30 more than the coaches would like; he must keep his weight down and improve his skills facing the basket. Gibson needs to hone his outside shot to keep defenses from sagging on Thomas.

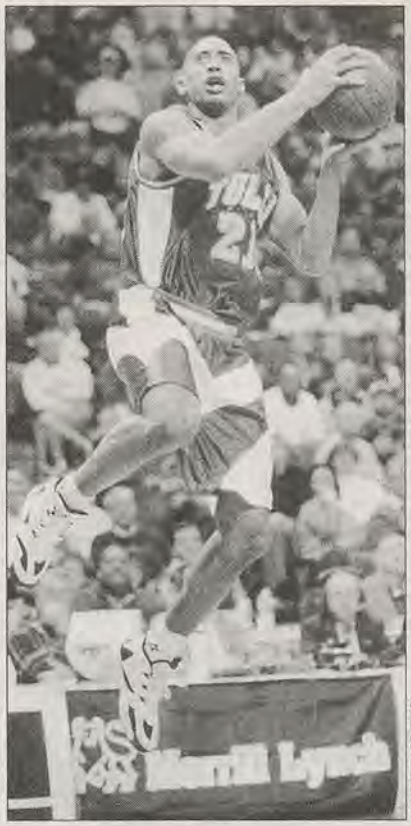
Outlook: Almost everyone is back—the starting five and key reserves—from a team that went 28-5, the winningest record in school history, and was ranked No. 23 in the final Associated Press poll. This could be the best-ever New Mexico team, and a trip to the Sweet 16 is hardly out of the question.

LOBOS DATA

Coach: Dave Bliss (172-83, 8 years; 391-246 overall, 21 years; 5-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 28-5. WAC: 14-4/2nd. Lost to Georgetown in NCAA East second round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Marty Cotwright, C.
Starters returning (5): David Gibson, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 3.6 apg, 49.0 FG%, 34.1 mpg); Greg Schornstein, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1 spg, 47.4 FG%, 42.2 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg); Clayton Shields, F, 6-8/Jr. (14.5 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 40.9 3-pt%, 31 mpg); Charles Smith, G, 6-4/Sr. (19.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.1 apg, 2 spg, 46.0 FG%, 81.1 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg); Kenny Thomas, C/F, 6-9/Soph. (14.7 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 57.8 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 30 mpg).
Other returnees: Kavossy Franklin, G, 6-2/Sr.; Royce Olney, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 2.4 apg, 48.3 FG%, 80.4 FT%, 43.7 3-pt%, 24 mpg); Chris Paddock, C, 7-0/Jr.; Daniel Santiago, C, 7-1/Jr.
Top newcomers: Ben Baum, C/F, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Oklahoma State); Lamont Long, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Albuquerque. **Home court:** University Arena (18,018).

3. TULSA

Frontcourt: Forward Michael Ruffin is a rising star and one of the top rebounders in the WAC. He averaged 7.7 boards last season while playing only 23 minutes per game. With opponents more likely to key on him, Ruffin must improve his free-throw accuracy from last season's disastrous 46.3 percent. J.R. Cunningham, a forward who played his freshman season at Arizona State before attending junior college last year, should start immediately. If Tulsa wants to go big, it has 6-11 center Rafael Maldonado, but he isn't much of an offensive threat. And, like Ruffin, he chips paint off the rim at the foul line, shooting 55.8 percent last season.


UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

Seals has made his name at guard for Tulsa, but he could play more small forward this year.

Backcourt: Forget the WAC—Shea Seals is one of the top players in the nation. Twice named first-team All-Missouri Valley, Seals demonstrated his skills when he lit up Dream Team III for 20 points in a summer exhibition. He can play small forward and shooting guard and may see more action at small forward if freshman Adrian Crawford, rated one of the nation's top 100 high school seniors last year, can make an immediate impact at guard. Rod Thompson, a part-time starter last season, should become a regular at the point. Thompson doesn't score much, but he doesn't need to—his main task is to get the ball to Seals and get out of the way.

Keys to success: Seals must prove he can be as effective in the WAC as he was in the weaker MVC. Ruffin must continue to develop and be prepared to pick up a bigger load offensively.

Outlook: A return to the Sweet 16, where Tulsa advanced in 1994 and '95, is asking a bit too much. But this Hurricane team should be competitive in the expanded WAC and has a chance to make a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament appearance.

GOLDEN HURRICANE DATA

Coach: Steve Robinson (22-8, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-8. Missouri Valley: 12-6/3rd. Lost to Louisville in Midwest first round.
Starters lost (3): Dewayne Bonner, G, (7.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.5 spg, 71 FT%, 28.9 mpg); Cordell Love, G (12.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.7 spg, 77 FT%, 35 3-pt %, 24.6 mpg); Ray Poindexter, C/F (7.5 ppg. 6.4 rpg, 1 bpg, 49 FG%, 23 mpg).
Others lost: Craig Hernadi, F (4.4 ppg, 10 mpg); J.R. Rollo, C (4.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 54 FG%,, 12.9 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Michael Ruffin, F, 6-8./Soph. (7.1 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 53 FG%, 23 mpg); Shea Seals, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.8 spg, 32.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Jonnie Gendron, G, 6-3/Soph. (3.3 ppg, 47 3-pt%, 73 FT%, 8.9 mpg); Jamie Gillin, G, 6-4/Jr.; Rafael Maldonado, C, 6-11/Sr. (3.7 ppg, 48 FG%, 2.6 rpg, 11.6 mpg); Jeff Platt, G, 6-1/Soph.; Rod Thompson, G, 6-0/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.1 spg, 84 FT%, 39 3-pt%, 22.2 mpg); Jason Williams, G, 6-2/Soph.
Top newcomers: Zac Bennett, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Eric Coley, G, 6-5/Fr.; John Cornwell, F, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Adrian Crawford, G, 6-5/Fr.; J.R. Cunningham, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1995 (MVC).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Tulsa Convention Center Arena (8,659).

4. RICE

Frontcourt: The happiest man at Rice could be center Shaun Igo, the Owls' only scoring threat along the front line last season. Igo now can look to one side and see Jesse Cravens, who averaged 12.8 points in 1994-95 before missing last season because of a back injury, and then to the other side and see Jarvis Sanni, a transfer from Arizona who was known as Jarvis Kelley when he played for the Wildcats. Igo was second-team All-Southwest Conference last season and should be even better with his new supporting cost. Robert Johnson started at forward last season, but now figures to come off the bench as an outside shooter.

Backcourt: Normally, plenty of tears would be shed when a player such as Tommy McGhee departs along with his 20.5 scoring average. But McGhee's departure is being overshadowed by the euphoria over the eligibility of Bobby Crawford, a transfer from Michigan. Crawford was a high school All-American in Houston before spending his first two college seasons with the Wolverines. Point guard J.J. Polk started every game last season and saved his best for the end. He averaged 11.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in Rice's final seven games. The Owls also return Eric Singletary, a point guard who started four games.

Keys to success: Sanni and Crawford, the transfers from major powers, must make an immediate impact. They need not be saviors, though, considering the Owls already have several quality players. Igo needs to stay out of foul trouble and become even more of a presence in the middle.

Outlook: The Owls haven't been to the NCAA Tournament since 1970 but have a chance to break that drought. The only problem is the schedule. Rice is the only Mountain Division school that must play Fresno State, the class of the Pacific, and the Owls will see the Bulldogs twice.

OWLS DATA

Coach: Willis Wilson (62-51, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 14-14. Southwest: 5-9/5th.
Starters lost (2): Tommy McGhee, G (20.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.2 spg, 45.6 FG%, 82.0 FT%, 45.0 3-pt%, 36.6 mpg); Kevin Nanney, F (3.5 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 18.9 mpg).
Others lost: Jeff Pope, F; Scott Oliver, C (4.5 rpg, 22.1 mpg; illness, injuries).
Starters returning (3): Shaun Igo, C, 6-11/Sr. (16.0 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 50.9 FG%, 72.9 FT%, 26.2 mpg); Robert Johnson, F, 6-4/Soph. (9.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 72.1 FT%, 27.2 mpg); J.J. Polk, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.0 spg, 33.7 mpg).
Other returnees: T.J. Armstrong, F, 6-5/Soph. (3.0 rpg, 16 mpg); Jesse Cravens, 6-6/F, Jr. (RS/back); Seth Deutsch, C, 6-9/Jr. (RS/knee; likely to miss season); Chad Michael, G, 5-10/Soph.; Eric Singletary, G, 6-2/Sr. (2.3 rpg, 2.6 apg, 22.4 mpg).

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

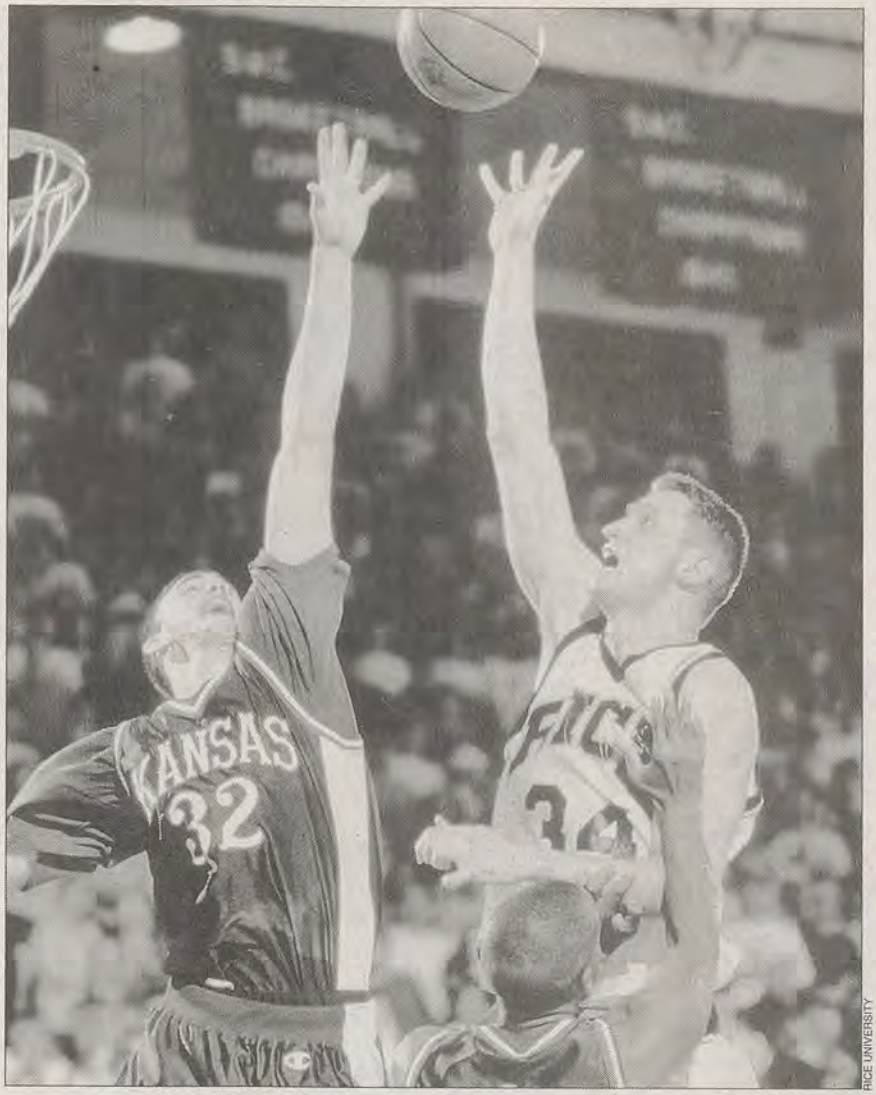
Top newcomers: Alex Bougaieff, C, 6-10/Fr.; Bobby Crawford, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Michigan); Jarvis Sanni, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Arizona); Josh Stringer, G, 6-3/Fr.
Last league title: 1970 (SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Houston. **Home court:** Autry Court (5,000).

5. TEXAS CHRISTIAN

Frontcourt: Many people empathized with coach Billy Tubbs when he lost Kurt Thomas, the nation's leading scorer and rebounder, after the 1994-95 season. Kurt who? Stepping in for Thomas was one of the nation's top freshmen, center Damion Walker. He rebounded well and showed a fine shooting touch. Forward James Penny, who ranked third in the Southwest Conference in blocks despite standing 6-5, complements Walker well. At 6-9 and 255 pounds, Dennis Davis is a tractor-trailer in the paint, but he must learn to play under control after averaging a foul every five minutes on the floor.
Backcourt: Tubbs has been searching for the kind of point guard he had at Oklahoma. So where did he unearth his new Mookie Blaylock? In Norman, Okla., of course. Prince Fowler, who played his freshman year with the Sooners, becomes eligible at TCU this season after transferring. Fowler is the prototype point guard for Tubbs' up-tempo style. Tubbs also signed two JC shooting guards who should mesh within his system. Malcolm Johnson could step in as an immediate starter, and Mike Jones also should play extensively. And consider this: The Horned Frogs have their 1995-96 backcourt starters, Anthony Burks and Jeff Jacobs, returning as well.
Keys to success: Walker and Fowler must form one of the WAC's best inside-outside duos. The Horned Frogs also need to avoid the controversy that plagued the team last season when Juan Bragg, the SWC's Newcomer of the Year in 1994-95, and promising freshman Princeton Parks quit the team at midseason to transfer.
Outlook: Entering his third season, Tubbs now has a team made up mainly of players who fit his system. But he's probably at least a year away from going to the NCAA Tournament, where he regularly spent March while with the Sooners.

HORNED FROGS DATA

Coach: Billy Tubbs (31-26, 2 years; 470-226 overall, 22 years; 18-11 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-15. Southwest: 6-8/4th.
Starters lost (1): Byron Waits, F (9.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 58.0 FG%, 73.6 FT%, 20.0 mpg).
Others lost: Juan Bragg, G (quit team); Sharif Butler, G (7.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 17.9 mpg; dismissed from team); Princeton Parks, F (quit team); Chris Richards, F (9.0 mpg; transfer/Texas A&M).
Starters returning (4): Anthony Burks, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 4.1 apg, 1.0 spg, 75.2 FT%, 26.8 mpg); Jeff Jacobs, G, 6-1/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 5.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 72.2 FT%, 30.9 mpg); James Penny, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.3 spg, 36.3 3-pt%, 26.0 mpg); Damion Walker, C/F, 6-8/Soph. (20.5 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 50.3 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 31.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Luke Allan, G, 6-4/Soph. (14.4 mpg); Dennis Davis, F, 6-9/Jr. (5.2 rpg, 47.4 FG%, 15.4 mpg); Saipele Tuialii, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Patrick Batteany, G, 6-1/Fr.; Prince Fowler, G, 5-11/Soph. (transfer/Oklahoma); Malcolm Johnson, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Mike Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1987 (SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Fort Worth, Texas. **Home court:** Daniel-Meyer Coliseum (7,166).



RICE UNIVERSITY

Rice's Igo averaged 16 points and almost nine rebounds last season. He is one of the better—albeit underrated—big men in the nation and is a big reason Rice could earn a postseason berth this year.

6. BRIGHAM YOUNG

Frontcourt: It was startling to see BYU undersized last season. Amazingly, that may be the case again. Unless 6-10 Jarkko Ahlbom, who barely played last season, makes major strides, no one over 6-9 figures to play much. Two starting front-liners return—forwards Jeff Campbell and Justin Weidauer. Campbell may have to move to center to make way for freshman Eric Nielsen, BYU's top recruit. Another freshman who figures to see immediate action is Michael Tompson. Although undersized last season, the Cougars averaged three more rebounds per game than opponents.
Backcourt: There will be no sons of the coach running around the backcourt this season—Randy Reid has used up his eligibility and Robbie Reid doesn't return from a mission until next season. That has created a huge hole at point guard, which likely will be filled by a freshman. The leading candidates are Matt Montague and Robbie Yates. There are no concerns at shooting guard, where Bryon Ruffner (18.8 ppg) returns.
Keys to success: The baby Cougars must grow up in a hurry. Of the 13 scholarship players on the roster, five are freshmen. The Cougars also will need Campbell or Weidauer to pick up the frontcourt scoring load left behind by the departed Kenneth Roberts.
Outlook: The Cougars had won 20 or more games six consecutive seasons until slipping to 15-13 last season. Don't look for an immediate return to the 20-win level—the Mountain Division is too tough. But the future looks good for BYU as some key players have been signed or soon will return from missions.

COUGARS DATA

Coach: Roger Reid (151-71, 7 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-13. WAC: 9-9/5th.
Starters lost (2): Randy Reid, G (11.2 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 5.1 apg, 1spg, 83.0 FT%, 32.4 mpg); Kenneth Roberts, C (19.3 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 1 bpg, 53.8 FG%, 81.3 FT%, 44.4 3-pt%, 35.1 mpg).
Others lost: Todd Christensen, G (39.0 3-pt%, 14.8 mpg; mission); Nathan Cooper, G (7.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 74.3 FT%, 38.1 3-pt%, 20.2 mpg; mission); Chad Fister, G (mission); Bryan Hofheins, G; Jermaine Thompson, C.
Starters returning (3): Jeff Campbell, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 81.4 FT%, 20.2 mpg); Bryon Ruffner, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (18.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 46.9 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 34.2 mpg); Justin Weidauer, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1 spg, 48.7 FG%, 25.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Jarkko Ahlbom, C, 6-10/Jr.; Lance Archibald, G, 6-3/Soph.; Grant Berges, G/F, 6-8/Jr.; Matt Lohner, G, 6-1/Sr.; Chris Stock, F, 6-5/Jr.
Top newcomers: David Anderson, C, 7-0/Fr.; Matt Montague, G, 6-2/Fr.; Eric Nielsen, F, 6-8/Fr.; Michael Thompson, F,

6-7/Fr.; Michael Vranes, G, 6-3/Fr.; Robbie Yates, G, 6-2/Fr. (returning from mission).
Last league title: 1993 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Provo, Utah. **Home court:** Marriott Center (22,700).

7. TEXAS-EL PASO

Frontcourt: The Miners landed the big strike they needed late in the spring when 6-11 center Kareem Poole came aboard. Poole originally signed to play at Arkansas but didn't qualify academically and spent two seasons at Tyler (Texas) Junior College. UTEP suddenly has a lot of height, which isn't the norm for a Don Haskins team. Back are 6-11 Jonathan Bomba and 6-10 JoJo Garcia, one of the roughest players in the WAC. The Miners also signed 6-9 freshman forward James Harris. The best frontcourt player returning is forward/center Sharif Fajardo, who started 18 games as a freshman.
Backcourt: Kimani Jones-Young is one of the WAC's more flamboyant players and one of its best guards. He led the Miners in scoring, assists and steals. Taking over at point for the departed Mark Ingles will be Donta Randle, a transfer from Drake. Randle has tremendous quickness but will be hard pressed to make up for the shooting of Ingles, who kept the Miners in many games with his long-range bombing. Also getting looks at guard will be freshmen William Smith and Rico Nelson (who redshirted last season). And the Miners still have pesky Jeff Spillar, who is 5-7.
Keys to success: Haskins, who missed the last two months of the season after suffering a heart attack, must be able to withstand the rigors of a 36th season. The Miners, who used only nine players last season and had one game in which they dressed six, must develop some depth.
Outlook: Last season's 12-16 record doesn't count as a losing mark for Haskins since the Miners were 10-6 when he went down. But Haskins is in jeopardy of suffering his first one since 1978-79.

MINERS DATA

Coach: Don Haskins (678-313, 35 years; 14-13 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '66).
1995-96 record: 12-16. WAC: 4-14/8th.
Starters lost (3): Kevin Beal, F (9.0 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 47.4 FG%, 25.8 mpg); Carl Davis, G (14.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 3.8 apg, 70.7 FT%, 35.8 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg); Mark Ingles, G (15.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 47.4 FG%, **86.4 FT%, 44.7 3-pt%**, 33.5 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Sharif Fajardo, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 48.7 FG%, 23.3 mpg); Kimani Jones-Young, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (16.6 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 78.5 FT%, 36.5 3-pt%, 31.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Jonathan Bomba, C, 6-11/Soph.; JoJo Garcia, C, 6-10/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 22.8 mpg); Jeremy Primozich, F, 6-7/Jr. (3.8 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 18.3 mpg); Jeff Spillar, G, 5-7/Sr. (14.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: James Harris, F, 6-9/Fr.; Shawn Langellier, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (Prop 48); Kerry Murray, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Rico Nelson, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS); Kareem Poole, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Donta Randle, G, 5-9/Soph. (transfer/Drake); William Smith, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; B.J. Wade, F, 6-7/Jr. (RS/knee).
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: El Paso, Texas. **Home court:** Special Events Center (12,222).

8. SOUTHERN METHODIST

Frontcourt: Center Jay Poerner was a big surprise for the Mustangs, raising his scoring average from 2.5 points in 1994-95 to 13.2 last season. He also was the only SMU starter who didn't make coach Mike Dement sweat over a trip to the foul line, hitting 80.7 percent of his attempts. (Two Mustangs regulars were sub-.500 at the line and another finished at .500.) Although starting forwards Bobby Dimson and Jabari Hearn also return, the Mustangs may take a longer look at Mohammed Tijjani, SMU's leading rebounder last season as a reserve. Tijjani's 5.5 rebound average came in only 19.8 minutes per game. On the down side, Tijjani fouled out seven times.
Backcourt: A fallen star last season, Troy Matthews will look to regain the form of his sophomore year. Matthews' scoring average dropped from 15.5 to 12.6 and his free-throw accuracy plummeted from 74.3 percent to 42.9. The Mustangs hope heralded freshman point guard Stephen Woods will help revitalize Matthews. Starting guard Jemeil Rich also is back as the Mustangs return all five starters. But Rich may have to settle for a backup role behind Woods, who is fully healed after missing much of the Texas high school season with a back injury.
Keys to success: The Mustangs must improve their free-throw shooting dramatically from last season's 61.1 percent. They also must be more careful with the basketball after averaging 16 turnovers a game, nearly three more than their opponents.
Outlook: Dement, entering his second season at SMU, inherited a young team, which wasn't necessarily good because he needs scholarships. The undersized Mustangs will find the Mountain Division much tougher than the Southwest Conference.

FRESNO STATE UNIVERSITY

Fresno State's Young is a good outside shooter who led the WAC in assists and steals last year.

MUSTANGS DATA

Coach: Mike Dement (8-20, 1 year; 130-143 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 8-20. Southwest Conference: 3-11/T7th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Peter Bates, C/F; Jermyn Bracey, F; Mike Carpenter, G.
Starters returning (5): Bobby Dimson, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 24.7 mpg); Jabari Hearn, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 30.0 mpg); Troy Matthews, G, 6-3/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1 spg, 35.2 mpg); Jay Poerner, C, 6-10/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 5 rpg, 49.3 FG%, 80.7 FT%, 27.8 mpg); Jemeil Rich, G, 5-10/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 3.9 apg, 29.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Fitzsimmons, G, 6-5/Jr.; Mark Grafenreed, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 17.2 mpg); Erion Harris, G/F, 6-4/Sr.; Mohammed Tijjani, F, 6-8/Sr. (5.5 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 19.8 mpg); Paul Zorad, F/C, 6-9/Jr.
Top newcomers: Anthony Anderson, G, 6-3/Fr.; Allen Krist, F, 6-8/Fr.; Stephen Woods, G, 6-0/Fr.
Last league title: 1993 (Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Dallas. **Home court:** Moody Coliseum (8,998).

PACIFIC DIVISION

1. FRESNO STATE

Frontcourt: On the roster, last year's mainstays are back; on the court, however, there likely will be several newcomers. And, theoretically, the Bulldogs will be better. Interchangeable centers Rahsaan Smith and Khary Stanley provide a rebounding presence whether used individually or in tandem. Smith averaged nearly twice as many points as Stanley and was a superior rebounder. Plus, Smith had a school-record 71 blocks. Stanley will miss several games early and could be questionable for the season because of academic problems. The considerable talents of Darnell McCulloch were somewhat subordinated last season for the sake of a guard-oriented team, but he remains a force even when playing the sixth-man role. Terrance Roberson, Daymond Forney and Danyell Macklin are the newcomers fanning fires of anticipation. Roberson, a three-time *Parade* All-American from Saginaw, Mich., sat out last year for academic reasons. Forney and Macklin are touted JC transfers.
Backcourt: Dominick Young and Kendric Brooks made up the nation's leading 3-point duo, combining for 216 treys. They'll shoot often and, in the case of Young, from almost anywhere. Young earned the right by almost single-handedly winning four games with strikes from behind the arc. "I've never been around a guy who made so many big buckets in one season," coach Jerry Tarkanian said. James Gray completed the triumvirate in last year's three-guard set, but he will miss the first semester because of academic deficiencies and likely will be a season-long casualty. Chris Herren, a highly rated transfer from Boston College, is ready to fill the spot.
Key to success: None of the five touted newcomers—Herren, Roberson, Forney and Macklin—played last season. How thick is the rust? How quickly will they adjust?
Outlook: Tarkanian recruited with lightning swiftness upon getting the Fresno job in the spring of 1995 and may reap his rewards this season. Last year's accomplishments—22 victories and making the NIT quarterfinals—were huge considering the school's recent past and that Tark didn't immediately muster the troops he'd recruit-

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

ed. The Bulldogs will remain potent from the perimeter but also display a much more complementary inside game. Tarkanian also has talked of running and pressing more, *a la* his powerhouse UNLV teams.

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Jerry Tarkanian (22-11, 1 year; 647-133 overall, 25 years; 37-16 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '90).
1995-96 record: 22-11. WAC: 13-5/3rd. Lost to Nebraska in NIT third round.
Starters lost (1): James Gray, G (9.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.1 spg, 72.4 FT%, 26.5 mpg; academically ineligible at least the first semester).
Others lost: DeAndre Austin, G (12.6 mpg); Brandon Bakke, G; Darrnaryl Stamps, F (2.6 rpg, 13.8 mpg, transfer/Cal State Hayward).
Starters returning (4): Kendric Brooks, G, 6-5/Sr. (19.4 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1 spg, 74.4 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 34.4 mpg); Darnell McCulloch, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 58.0 FG%, 27.9 mpg); Rahsaan Smith, C, 6-10/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 2.2 bpg, 56.3 FG%, 28.2 mpg); Dominick Young, G, 5-10/Sr. (18.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg, **6.6 apg**, **2.6 spg**, 71.8 FT%, 38.0 3-pt%, 35.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Khary Stanley, C, 6-10/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 50 FG%, 16.4 mpg); Gerrit Terdenge, F, 6-10/Soph. (2.2 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 11.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Daymond Forney, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Chris Herren, G, 6-3/Soph. (tranfer/Boston College); Danyell Macklin, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Demetrius Porter, G, 5-10/Fr.; Terrance Roberson, F, 6-7/Soph. (Prop 48).
Last league title: 1982 (Pacific Coast Athletic Association).
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Fresno, Calif. **Home court:** Selland Arena (10,159).

2. UNLV

Frontcourt: The Rebels expect quantum-leap improvement, mainly because of two members of one of the nation's top recruiting classes. JC import Keon Clark is being called a Marcus Camby type, something UNLV coach Bill Bayno knows a little something about. Bayno, who recruited Camby while an assistant at Massachusetts, describes Clark as a "big man with guard skills." And then there's Issiah Epps, who was recruited by North Carolina and Connecticut, among others. But Epps came up short on his SAT and will miss at least the first semester. UNLV retrieved exactly one less rebound than its opponents last year; with Clark, Epps and the return of last year's top two rebounders (Warren Rosegreen and Tony Lane), that shouldn't be the case again.
Backcourt: Starters Jermaine "Sunshine" Smith (who put up good numbers) and Kevin James return. But the recruits are generating anticipation. Perimeter shooter Corky Ausborne gained WAC experience as a freshman at New Mexico before transferring to the junior college ranks. Mark Dickel, who reminds Bayno of some of the tough operatives he worked with at UMass, has played in Australia and on the New Zealand national team and could be a gem at point guard. Freshman Donovan Stewart has credentials as a scorer and is expected to contribute.
Key to success: The recruiting class must live up—or come close—to its billing.
Outlook: The P.T. (Post-Tarkanian) decline appears to be over. A four-year contract for Bayno that runs through the 1999-2000 season is a clear signal of stability. Switching from the Big West to the WAC should rekindle local enthusiasm, if only because it brings Tarkanian back to town occasionally, albeit as an opposing coach. The potential is on hand for a major upturn.

REBELS DATA

Coach: Bill Bayno (10-16, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 10-16. Big West: 7-11/9th.
Starters lost (1): Clayton Johnson, F (16.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.0 spg, 35.6 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg).
Others lost: Wes Reed, G (10.0 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Kevin James, G, 5-11/Sr. (3.0 apg, 18.5 mpg); Tony Lane, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 60.5 FG%, 27.0 mpg); Warren Rosegreen, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 1.1 spg, 54.2 FG%, 31.8 mpg); Jermaine Smith, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.4 spg, 82.1 FT%, 41.3 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Eddie Corbett, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (11.8 mpg); Chancellor Davis, G, 5-8/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 3.4 apg, 1.0 spg, 73.1 FT%, 19.3 mpg); Eric Lee, C, 6-10/Soph. (RS/back); Grant Rice, G, 6-4/Jr. (7.6 mpg); Ben Sanders, G, 6-4/Soph. (13.1 mpg); Damian Smith, G, 6-3/Sr. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Corky Ausborne, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Keon Clark, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Mark Dickel, G, 6-1/Fr.; Issiah Epps, C, 6-10/Fr. (academically ineligible at least the first semester); Tyrone Nesby, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Donovan Stewart, G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1992 (Big West).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Las Vegas. **Home court:** Thomas & Mack Center (18,500).

3. WYOMING

Frontcourt: The No. 1 item on HL Coleman's list of motivating factors this season? Two words: all-conference. Coleman led the league in rebounding last season and was the only WAC player to average a scoring/rebounding double-double—yet he made neither the coaches' nor the media's All-WAC team. The spindly senior is considered a formidable defender but probably needs to do more offensively to convince the voters. In the middle, Chris Haslam has one last year to become a force. Derek Washington could be a factor if he remains healthy, something he couldn't do (broken foot) last year. Coach Joby Wright is high on two high school recruits—Sam Brinson, a good rebounder and inside scorer, and Brad Mann, a heralded perimeter shooter.
Backcourt: LaDrell Whitehead herds the Cowboys with high efficiency. He led the team in scoring and ranked high in WAC 3-point percentage, free-throw shooting, steals and assists. Having done it for two years, he might be even better this season. Jeron Roberts provided almost 18 points a game last season and pairs with Whitehead to give the Cowboys a potent backcourt. Swingman Torin Ragin also will see time at off-guard, and freshman Ned Wrightson's 3-point ability will necessitate a good look.
Key to success: Maintaining the solid defense that has characterized Wright's teams while improving in shooting and scoring—two areas where the Cowboys ranked among the bottom three in the conference.
Outlook: It's Wright's fourth season, meaning all the recruits are his. There's enough experience and talent on hand to make a big year a real possibility.

COWBOYS DATA

Coach: Joby Wright (41-44, 3 years; 102-73 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 14-15. WAC: 8-10/6th.
Starters lost (1): Sly Johnson, F (7.0 ppg, 19.0 mpg).
Others lost: Aaron Smith, G (1.0 spg, 77.3 FT%, 17.0 mpg); Earnest Swindell, G.
Starters returning (4): HL Coleman, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.2 ppg, **10.4 rpg**, 1 spg, 51.9 FG%, 75.9 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 36.6 mpg); Jeron Roberts, G, 6-3/Jr. (17.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 73.9 FT%, 33.6 mpg); Derek Washington, C, 6-10/Jr. (2.9 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 13.1 mpg); LaDrell Whitehead, G, 5-8/Jr. (17.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 4 apg, 2.4 spg, 82.4 FT%, 35.2 3-pt%, 34.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Jeff Allen, C/F, 6-10/Jr. (2.8 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 15.3 mpg); Brad Enzi, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS/back) ; Chris Haslam, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.5 rpg, 55.4 FG%, 18.3 mpg); Torin Ragin, G/F, 6-5/Soph.; Gregg Sawyer, G, 6-2/Soph. (9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Sam Brinson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Antone Lostetter, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brad Mann, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ned Wrightson, G, 6-3/Fr.
Last league title: 1986 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Laramie, Wyo. **Home court:** Arena Auditorium (15,028).

4. HAWAII

Frontcourt: At first glance, the rebuilding project looks good. The Rainbows have 7-1 Seth Sundberg as a centerpiece but need to fill both forward spots, particularly the one formerly held down by physical Justice Sueing, an honorable-mention All-WAC pick. Michael Robinson, a prep All-American in Philadelphia and a California JC standout, fills the bill at small forward. JC transfer Kelvin Anderson is the prime candidate at power forward. Rainbows fans hope the newcomers provide a lift for a team that was last in the WAC in rebound margin in '96.
Backcourt: The Saddleback Community College connection has come through again, with Anthony Carter yet another product of that California junior college opting for Hawaii. Carter, who owns Saddleback career records for points, field goals and free throws, will supplant former Saddleback star Tes Whitlock. Carter is reputedly a better overall player than Whitlock, who averaged 17.5 points last year, and is expected to provide leadership that has been missing. Starting point guard Alika Smith returns but JC transfers Aaron Curry and Kawika Akina will push for playing time.
Keys to success: Carter and Robinson must be of all-newcomer stature (at least) and Sundberg needs to continue the improvement he displayed near the end of last season.
Outlook: The Rainbows feel they have replaced the missing pieces and will benefit from being in the Pacific Division, where many teams are rebuilding. Hawaii has to show an ability to win on the road, which is not that easy when the shortest conference trip, one way, is more than 2,000 miles.

RAINBOWS DATA

Coach: Riley Wallace (135-134, 9 years; 150-161 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-17. WAC: 7-11/7th.
Starters lost (3): Anthony Harris, G (**22.4 ppg**, 2.9 rpg, 2.5 apg, 49.4 FG%, 83.2 FT%, 34.8 mpg); Justice Sueing, F (17.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1 spg, **59.5 FG%**, 76.0 FT%, 35.6 mpg); Tes Whitlock, G (17.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.9 spg, 72.9 FT%, 34.7 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Alika Smith, G, 6-1/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.7 apg, 1.9 spg, 46.4 FG%, 78.2 FT%, 36.5 mpg); Seth Sundberg, C, 7-1/Sr. (4.3 rpg, 1pg, 58.2 FG%, 17.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Eric Ambrozich, F, 6-8/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 16.4 mpg); Danny Furlong, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.0 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 20.9 mpg); Dennis Harrison, G, 6-0/Sr.; Micah Kroeger, F, 6-6/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 22.8 mpg); Greg Miller, F, 6-7/Soph.; Ales Zivanovic, F, 6-10/Jr. (2.3 rpg, 14.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kawika Akina, G, 5-11/Jr .(JC); Kelvin Anderson, F, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Anthony Carter, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Aaron Curry, G, 6-2/Jr .(JC); Quentin Gallon, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Michael Robinson, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Honolulu. **Home court:** Special Events Arena (10,225).

5. SAN DIEGO STATE

Frontcourt: No one is back from the group that helped produce the school's first win-

ning record in 11 years. And Kareem Anderson, Paul Jarrett and Leon Carter ranked 1-2-3 on the team in scoring and 3-2-1 in rebounding while providing 49 percent of the points and 47 percent of the rebounds. But none averaged more than 13.7 points or 7.5 rebounds, so the trio isn't exactly irreplaceable. Sitting out last season after transferring from Oral Roberts, Tye Fields pushed Carter in practice and the senior had a career year. Now Fields gets his opportunity. JC transfers Roy Kruiswyk and Marcus Wallace are expected to provide muscle and speed/scoring, respectively, and Kevin Betts, a midsummer signee and another JC import, specializes in slashing to the basket. Incoming freshmen Marcelo Correa, a native of Brazil who attended high school in the San Diego area, and Stephen Clark need polishing.

Backcourt: The departure of point guard Raymond "Circus" King, who started as a freshman last season but then transferred to California, was a shock. A quick search for a replacement netted Jason Richey, a JC product and former walk-on at Arizona who was toughened by practicing against Damon Stoudamire. Richey, a good scorer, can play both guard spots. Chad Nelson, a three-year starter, also plays both positions and does so with a great deal of heart. Freshman Will Porter is a perimeter sharpshooter, and 6-6 Jacobi Thompson, a JC transfer, will provide options when a big lineup is desired.

Key to success: "Unproven at this level" is a fitting description for everyone on the roster except Nelson. Most players must prove themselves.

Outlook: Taking a new group, putting it together and winning with it is coach Fred Trenkle's *modus operandi*. He did it for years at the College of Southern Idaho and produced a winner in his second season as the Aztecs' coach.

AZTECS DATA

Coach: Fred Trenkle (26-31, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 15-14. WAC: 8-10/T6th.
Starters lost (4): Kareem Anderson, F (13.7 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 27.6 mpg); Leon Carter, C (12.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 1 bpg, 60.5 FG%, 77.8 FT%, 28.9 mpg); Paul Jarrett, F (13.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 2 apg, 1.6 spg, 47.5 FG%, 78.9 FT%, 36.6 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg); Raymond King, G (7.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 5.2 apg, 2.2 spg, 35 mpg, transfer/California).
Others lost: Trent Gardner, G; Ron Martin, F (5.1 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 13.8 mpg); Berry Randle, G (5.6 ppg, 35.0 3-pt%, 13.1 mpg); Darius Rutledge, F (5.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1 spg, 70.0 FT%, 15.5 mpg; transfer/UC Riverside); Herman Singleton, F.
Starters returning (1): Chad Nelson, G, 6-1/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1 spg, 79.8 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 35.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Brian Reinhardt, F, 6-6/Sr.; Brady Trenkle, G, 5-11/Soph. (RS).
Top newcomers: Kevin Betts, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Stephen Clark, F, 6-8/Fr.; Marcelo Correa, C, 6-10/Fr.; Tye Fields, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Oral Roberts); Roy Kruiswyk, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Will Porter, G, 6-1/Fr.; Jason Richey, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Jacobi Thompson, G, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Marcus Wallace, F/G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1978 (tie, Pacific Coast Athletic Association).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: San Diego. **Home court:** San Diego Sports Arena (13,741).

6. COLORADO STATE

Frontcourt: As freshmen, Matt Barnett, Lorenzo Johnson and Ryan Chilton showed promise. As sophomores, they held their own. Through both seasons, veteran center Joe Vogel provided massive (as in 6-11) support. Now, Vogel is gone and the time is at

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Nelson is the lone returning starter for the Aztecs. He is headed into his fourth season as a starter.

hand for the juniors to show their stuff. Barnett can rebound and Chilton is an able shot blocker. Johnson's sophomore year represented a step backward, though, mostly because of a decline in playing time in favor of senior Delmonte Madison. Top recruit Scott Benson is an all-around talent who is willing to mix it up inside. Fellow JC product James Smith plays in the slash-and-drive manner exhibited by Madison. Freshmen Michael O'Neill (6-11) and John Ford (6-9) add height to the roster; their rapid development would be a plus.

Backcourt: The loss of All-WAC performer David Evans and point man Bobby Sellers leaves much to be replaced in every aspect. Milton Palacio, a JC import with three years of eligibility remaining, figures to fill the ballhandling void. Juniors Jameel Mahmud and Bryan Christiansen have experience, but the days of Colorado State's backcourt superiority appear to be over—at least for a while.

Key to success: A senior-less team will need its sizable junior class to show stepped-up skill and leadership.

Outlook: Forrest Gump would liken this basketball team to a box of chocolates. Even coach Stew Morrill doesn't know what he's likely to get. "We're kind of an unknown quantity. ... We've got a lot of unproven commodities," Morrill said.

RAMS DATA

Coach: Stew Morrill (81-68, 5 years; 178-120 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-12. WAC: 11-7/4th. Lost to Nebraska in NIT first round.
Starters lost (4): David Evans, G (18.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.8 apg, 2.4 spg, 49.1 FG%, 74.3 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg); Delmonte Madison, F/G (13.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.6 spg, 55.9 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 28.6 mpg); Bobby Sellers, G (9.4 ppg, 5.2 apg, 47.0 FG%, 74.2 FT%, 47.6 3-pt%, 33.3 mpg); Joe Vogel, C (10.6 ppg, 6.6 rpg, **2.3 bpg**, 48.9 FG%, 72.3 FT%, 27.9 mpg).
Others lost: Spook Victor, G/F (8.3 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Matt Barnett, F, 6-8/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.2 apg, 55.4 FG%, 74.0 FT%, 28.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Britt Booker, G, 6-0/Soph.; Ryan Chilton, C, 7-0/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 13.0 mpg); Bryan Christiansen, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (2.3 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 10.0 mpg); Lorenzo Johnson, F, 6-9/Jr. (4.3 rpg, 16.2 mpg); Jameel Mahmud, G, 5-11/Jr. (7.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Scott Benson, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); John Ford, F, 6-9/Fr.; Jayson Mitchell, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Michael O'Neill, F/C, 6-11/Fr.; Milton Palacio, G, 6-1/Soph. (JC); James Smith, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (JC); James Ware, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS).
Last league title: 1990 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Fort Collins, Colo. **Home court:** Moby Arena (9,001).

7. SAN JOSE STATE

Frontcourt: The arrival of Michigan transfer Olivier Saint-Jean figured to have a big impact on the Spartans' program last season—and it did. Saint-Jean missed the first five games of the season, then averaged 27.9 minutes a game, led the team in scoring, was an All-Big West selection and won MVP honors in the Big West Tournament. Saint-Jean has quickness that few players his size possess, the ability to score inside and out and, according to coach Stan Morrison, excellent work habits and leadership skills. Forward/center Rich Taylor, hero of the Big West Tournament championship game, hopes to supplant starter Roy Hammonds and become more of a game-by-game factor. Redshirt Kweli Baker has quickness, and former Marine Tom Lowery—at age 27—has the maturity and attitude to contribute. Morrison went global with his recruiting for late signees Aaron Grant (Canada) and Graeme Anstey (Australia). Both were highly regarded in their respective countries. Still, post defense, post offense and post depth figure to be three major questions entering the season.

Backcourt: A first-game ankle injury to Brad Quinet, who averaged 13 points a game in 1994-95, forced him to redshirt and the Spartans to improvise. Tito Addison had a good year—he was an All-Big West Tournament selection—and Marmet Williams proved an adequate running mate. Quinet returns and the Spartans went to the JC ranks for Rick Hite, who averaged 8.1 assists.

Key to success: Regaining the chemistry and quality of effort that enabled the Spartans to win nine of 10 games in a run capped by an NCAA Tournament berth.

Outlook: Making the NCAAs didn't have an immediate impact on recruiting, although it may have helped with the two late signings. The jury also is out regarding the Spartans' manpower beyond Saint-Jean and what effect the switch from the Big West to the WAC will have. However those factors play out, you can't dismiss the fact the Spartans were 13-17 last year.

SPARTANS DATA

Coach: Stan Morrison (56-135, 7 years; 259-318 overall, 21 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-17. Big West: 9-9/T5th. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest first round.
Starters lost (2): Sam Allen, F (13.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 57.8 FG%, 25.0 mpg); Roy Hammonds, C (11.5 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.4 spg, 46.7 FG%, 30.1 mpg).
Others lost: Darren Greene, F (5.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 22.1 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Tito Addison, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.5 spg, 81.6 3-pt%, 32.6 mpg); Olivier Saint-Jean, F, 6-6/Jr. (17.2 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 74.1

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

FT%, 27.9 mpg); Marmet Williams, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.4 apg, 27.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Jahi Bacon, G, 6-3/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 70.9 FT%, 12.8 mpg); Kweli Baker, F, 6-7/Soph. (RS); LaRon Campbell-Hall, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.6 mpg); Ken Kavanagh, F, 6-8/Soph.; Brad Quinet, G, 6-2/Sr. (RS/ankle); Rich Taylor, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (5.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 72.8 FT%, 17.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Graeme Anstey, C, 6-11/Fr.; Craig Clark, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS); Aaron Grant, F, 6-8/Fr.; Rick Hite, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Tom Lowery, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS).
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: San Jose, Calif. **Home court:** The Event Center (5,000); San Jose Arena (18,000).

8. AIR FORCE

Frontcourt: In Mike Freeman, the Falcons have a legitimate WAC-caliber front-liner—and a player coming off surgery on a torn anterior cruciate ligament. The good news for the Falcons is that Freeman is ahead of projections on recuperation. The good news for Freeman is that he'll have some help this season. Up from the junior varsity is 6-9 John Middlemore, and the freshman class includes 6-7 Bryan Summers. Chris Kay returns for his senior season to battle Mark Kilgore for the power forward spot. A solid year is expected from Louis Stewart, who contributed as a freshman and is a possibility at small forward.
Backcourt: As a sophomore last season, Jarmica Reese was among the WAC's top 20 in scoring, field-goal percentage, free-throw shooting and rebounding. He won't have Reggie Minton Jr. as a backcourt mate this season, but Matt Horin showed shooting range and spunk in his first year on the varsity and appears to be a good complement to Reese.
Key to success: Air Force must hang close against physically superior opposition—which the Falcons do with regularity—and find ways to prevail in crunch time.
Outlook: The academy's admission rules and regulations put the Falcons at a distinct disadvantage in basketball and the Falcons make a habit of finishing in last place. Expansion has done the Falcons no favors—only the top six teams from each division qualify for the WAC Tournament. Coach Reggie Minton's team is coming off a 1-17 league season and there are no great hopes for vast improvement.

FALCONS DATA

Coach: Reggie Minton (115-225, 12 years; 126-240 overall, 13 years).
1995-96 record: 5-23. WAC: 1-17/10th.
Starters lost (3): Reggie Minton Jr., G (10.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.3 apg, 34.8 mpg); Charlie Nelson, F (10.0 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 28.8 mpg); Brandon Parker, G (14.8 mpg).
Others lost: Anthony Barrett, F (4.5 ppg, 49.0 FG%, 15.1 mpg); Brad Garey, F (7.7 mpg); Nate Owendoff, F.
Starters returning (2): Mike Freeman, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (10.5 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 28.7 mpg); Jarmica Reese, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.8 spg, 75.7 FT%, 33.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Horin, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 2.4 apg, 71.7 FT%, 23.6 mpg); Chris Kay, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.4 mpg); Mark Kilgore, F, 6-6/Sr.; Louis Stewart, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.8 mpg.).
Top newcomers: Mathew Elleby, G, 6-2/Fr.; Miguel Garcia, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Benjamin Lyman, G, 6-3/Fr.; David McManus, F, 6-8/Fr.; John Middlemore, C, 6-9/Sr.; Dylan Pope, G, 6-3/Fr.; K.C. Somers, F, 6-7/Fr.; Bryan Summers, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: Colorado Springs. **Home court:** Clune Arena (6,002). ◆

Chris Tomasson, who did the Mountain preview, covers New Mexico and the WAC Mountain Division for the Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal. Hank Wesch, who did the Pacific preview, covers San Diego State and the WAC Pacific Division for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

SCOUTING THE WAC

Ascending: UNLV. The Rebels' airplane went into a nose dive following the Jerry Tarkanian ouster through the aborted administrations of Rollie Massimino and Tim Grgurich, but coach Bill Bayno appears to have grabbed the control stick and pulled it up. Bayno, a former UMass assistant, stocked up heavily with recruits to make a good first impression—or maybe first intimidation—in the Rebels' initial season of WAC membership.
Descending: Colorado State. It may be just a one-year thing, but the Rams lost four starters—including an All-WAC guard (David Evans) and a center selected in the NBA draft (Joe Vogel)—and the replacements aren't of the caliber to lower anxiety levels.
Biggest sneakers to fill: BYU center Kenneth Roberts'. For an undersized (6-6) center, Roberts was mighty effective as a scorer, rebounder and shot blocker. It possibly will take two guys much taller than Roberts—6-10 Jarkko Ahlbom and 6-9 Jeff Campbell—to come close to compensating.
Most underrated player: Air Force center/forward Mike Freeman. Playing for the Falcons is a sure way to be overlooked. Playing well is a steppingstone to being underrated. Falcons coach Reggie Minton says of Freeman: "He plays against bigger and stronger guys every game, but with him in there, people didn't just throw the ball in and have their way."
Most overrated player: Fresno State guard Kendric Brooks. The prototypical streak shooter from long range, Brooks can be very good or very bad; maybe it was coincidence, but the bad nights seemed to come against the league's better teams. He benefits from having Dominick Young as a running mate, but with the Bulldogs' influx of new talent, Brooks looks susceptible to diminished-role syndrome.
Coach on the hot seat: BYU's Roger Reid. It seems like the ultimate "What have you done for me lately?" scenario—but that's life in the '90s. Reid-coached Cougars teams won 20 games and were postseason participants in each of his first six years. Then things went a little blah in Provo last year (15-13 overall, 9-9 in the WAC), and the hot rumor had the alumni trying to get Reid out and Danny Ainge in. A bounce-back year may be required to quell whatever unrest is smoldering.
Best bets: Utah's Keith Van Horn will be an NBA lottery pick. ... Midway through the conference season, many fans still won't remember which division their teams are in—or know the members of the other division, either. ... Even though they have been duly warned, the WAC's six newcomers will be amazed at the length and difficulty of road trips. ... With venerable coach Don Haskins healthy and back on the bench, Texas-El Paso will be considerably tougher in close games and far less likely to wilt down the stretch. ... Air Force will watch the WAC Tournament on TV but won't establish a record for conference losses. The Falcons dropped a WAC-worst 17 league games last season; in 1996-97, the conference will cut back its schedule from 18 to 16 games.
Odds and ends: BYU and San Diego State have signed for a home-and-home series in the next two years. The games are scheduled at the end of pre-conference play and won't count in the WAC standings. It's a way to assure a regular meeting of established rivals from different divisions who otherwise might not play each other for years. ... A total of 34 WAC games will be televised on either ESPN, ESPN2, CBS or NBC this season, the most in league history. The exposure doesn't come without some sacrifice in starting times. UNLV at TCU (January 6), Rice at Tulsa (January 13) and Utah at Rice (February 24) will tip off at 11 p.m. local time. ... When he played at Arizona, he was Jarvis Kelley, reflecting his mother's maiden name. Now that the forward is at Rice, it's Jarvis Sanni, the surname of his father. ... San Diego State has only two players from last season's 12-man roster returning. ... TCU's Billy Tubbs, on the divisional designations: "We're trying to grow a mountain in Fort Worth, and in Laramie they're trying to get a branch of the Pacific Ocean up to their door." ... New Mexico's Dave Bliss, on WAC expansion: "It's not a conference, it's a collection of zip codes." ... San Jose State's Stan Morrison, on reasons his school switched from the Big West to the WAC: "First and foremost, it was a football decision. It has to do with putting cheeks in the seats." ... Colorado State's Stew Morrill, on the expanded WAC and the NCAA Tournament: "With 16 teams and two divisions, we should have two automatic berths, one for each division." ◆

—HANK WESCH

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. UNLV (C Keon Clark). Clark averaged a double-double last season at Dixie College in Utah. A quick-to-the-ball rebounder who can sky, he's a scorer from inside and out. Clark can run the floor, too.
2. Utah (G David Jackson).
3. BYU (F Eric Nielsen).
4. Tulsa (G Adrian Crawford).
5. Hawaii (G Anthony Carter).
6. Texas-El Paso (C Kareem Poole).
7. Wyoming (F Sam Brinson).
8. New Mexico (G Lamont Long).
9. TCU (G Malcolm Johnson).
10. SMU (G Stephen Woods).
11. Fresno State (F Danyell Macklin).
12. San Diego State (G Jason Richey).

BIG 12

Conference Rank: 6

By Greg Couch and Jonathan Feigen

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

NORTH DIVISION	SOUTH DIVISION
1. KANSAS	1. TEXAS
2. IOWA STATE	2. OKLAHOMA ST.
3. KANSAS STATE	3. TEXAS TECH
4. MISSOURI	4. OKLAHOMA
5. NEBRASKA	5. TEXAS A&M
6. COLORADO	6. BAYLOR

ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

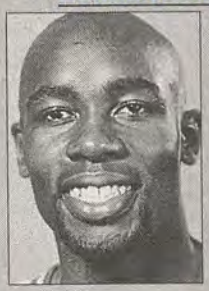
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	CORY CARR, Texas Tech	6-4/200	Jr.
F	RAEF LaFRENTZ, Kansas	6-11/220	Jr.
F	PAUL PIERCE, Kansas	6-6/220	Soph.
C	BRIAN SKINNER, Baylor	6-10/245	Jr.
G	JACQUE VAUGHN, Kansas	6-1/195	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	CHAUNCEY BILLUPS, Colorado	6-3/191	Soph.
G/F	REGGIE FREEMAN, Texas	6-6/200	Sr.
C	SCOT POLLARD, Kansas	6-10/250	Sr.
F	KELLY THAMES, Missouri	6-8/220	Jr.
G	DEDRIC WILLOUGHBY, Iowa State	6-3/180	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



JACQUE VAUGHN
G, Kansas

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

JERALD BROWN, F/G, Texas A&M

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Dedric Willoughby, Iowa State.
Best rebounder: Brian Skinner, Baylor.
Best playmaker: Jacque Vaughn, Kansas.
Best defender: Mark Young, Kansas State.
Best leaper: Paul Pierce, Kansas.
Best under 6 foot: Tyronn Lue, Nebraska.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Reggie Freeman, Texas.
Most flamboyant: Jason Sutherland, Missouri.
Best NBA prospect: Chauncey Billups, Colorado.

NORTH DIVISION

1. KANSAS

Frontcourt: There's enough talent, smarts and athleticism in the frontcourt to dominate the Big 12, but is there enough muscle to win the national title? For the past two seasons, the Jayhawks have beaten everyone until opponents slowed the pace and pushed their big men around. That's how Virginia knocked the Jayhawks out of the NCAA Tournament two years ago and how Syracuse took them out last year. Still, forward Raef LaFrentz is among the most athletic big men in the country, and center Scot Pollard is mobile and consistent. Slasher Paul Pierce has all the talent in the world but needs to harness it. There's good depth, too.

Backcourt: Yes, this is a recording: There's plenty of talent, smarts and athleticism in the backcourt to dominate the Big 12, but is there enough shooting to win the national title? Part of the reason KU's big men have been pushed around is that the long-range shooters haven't been reliable enough to keep defenses honest. Shooting is the only thing point guard Jacque Vaughn needs to work on before graduating to the NBA. He also must overcome an injury to his right wrist that will sideline him until at least January. Jerod Haase can shut down anyone's offense—including his own. And Billy Thomas shot well two years ago but not last year. But he did spend most of last season with walking pneumonia and nagging injuries. Ryan Robertson can help at off-guard.

Key to success: Kansas, which shot just 45.4 percent last season (32.6 from 3-point territory), must find a consistent jump shooter.

Outlook: There is defense, continuity and experience everywhere. If Vaughn's hard work during the offseason led him to discover a jump shot—or if Haase and Thomas rediscover theirs—and if LaFrentz and Pollard added a layer of muscle, this could be coach Roy Williams' first national title team. If not, this could be another year of big wins, high rankings and an early NCAA Tournament loss.

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Vaughn, a senior, may be the best point guard in the nation. Still, he and the rest of Jayhawks need to improve their shooting eyes.

JAYHAWKS DATA

Coach: Roy Williams (213-56, 8 years; 18-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 29-5. Big 8: 12-2/1st. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA West final.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Sean Pearson, F (4.5 ppg, 9.6 mpg); Calvin Rayford, G (1.8 apg, 7.0 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Jerod Haase, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.6 apg, 2.0 spg, 75.0 FT%, 26.6 mpg); Raef LaFrentz, F, 6-11/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 54.3 FG%, 27.1 mpg); Paul Pierce, F, 6-6/Soph. (11.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.3 spg, 25.3 mpg); Scot Pollard, C, 6-10/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 2.5 bpg, 56.4 FG%, 24.5 mpg); Jacque Vaughn, G, 6-1/Sr. (10.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, **6.6 apg**, 1.3 spg, 48.2 FG%, 42.4 3-pt%, 31.6 mpg).
Other returnees: C.B. McGrath, G, 5-11/Jr.; T.J. Pugh, F, 6-9/Soph. (46.1 FG%, 10.1 mpg); Ryan Robertson, G, 6-5/Soph. (4.3 ppg, 48.8 FG%, 77.0 FT%, 45.2 3-pt%, 8.9 mpg); Billy Thomas, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 10.5 mpg); B.J. Williams, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 48.5 FG%, 16.5 mpg); Travis Williams, C, 7-0/Soph. (RS).
Top newcomers: Nicky Bradford, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1996 (Big 8).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Lawrence, Kan. **Home court:** Allen Fieldhouse (16,300).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

2. IOWA STATE

Frontcourt: If center Kelvin Cato continues to progress the way he did last year, he will be an NBA prospect and the Cyclones will have a tough inside defense. Forward Kenny Pratt, despite having limited skills, keeps scoring and scoring and rebounding and rebounding. Pratt, though, is academically ineligible for at least the first semester. And swingman Shawn Bankhead, a top JC recruit last year, will be a scoring threat from everywhere. JC transfer Brad Johnson is expected to be a solid outside shooter. Returnee Klay Edwards and freshman Stevie Johnson also will see time.

Backcourt: When Dedric Willoughby's outside shooting pulls defenses out, he slashes for more. He's a shoo-in for all-league honors. But whether the Cyclones can jump to the next level and have success

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

in the NCAA Tournament will come down to the play at point guard. Coach Tim Floyd keeps trying to recruit over Jacy Holloway, but Holloway is too steady to lose the starting job. But he either has to step up, or one of the new guys (JC transfer DeAndre Harris?) has to step in.

Key to success: The Cyclones must gain production from their point guard.

Outlook: After just two years under Floyd, the Cyclones already are bearing his stamp. Holloway is the only player left from the Johnny Orr era. Willoughby is the leading returning scorer in the North Division, and Cato is second among rebounders. The Cyclones stay within their roles, play with smarts and draw a lot of fouls. Holloway, though, has only been good enough to make the Cyclones slightly better than a bubble team. If Iowa State improves at point guard, it might go a long way in the tournament. If not, it will have to be happy with just getting there again.

CYCLONES DATA

Coach: Tim Floyd (47-20, 2 years; 209-103 overall, 10 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 24-9. Big 8: 9-5/2nd. Lost to Utah in NCAA Midwest second round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Jason Justus, F (transfer/North Dakota State); Joe Modderman, G (13.3 mpg; transfer/Grand Valley State).
Starters returning (5): Shawn Bankhead, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 28.1 mpg); Kelvin Cato, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 7.7 rpg, **2.6 bpg**, 50.3 FG%, 25.8 mpg); Jacy Holloway, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 4.5 apg, 72.7 FT%, 34.6 mpg); Kenny Pratt, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.3 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.7 spg, 46.6 FG%, 32.3 mpg; academically ineligible first semester); Dedric Willoughby, G, 6-3/Sr. (20.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.3 spg, 79.3 FT%, 38.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Ha-Keem Abdel-Khaliq, G, 6-4/Sr.; Klay Edwards, F, 6-6/Soph. (4.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 57.6 FG%, 19.8 mpg); Sol Harris, G, 6-3/Sr.; Tony Rampton, C, 6-11/Soph. (10.3 mpg); Tyler Peterson, C, 7-0/Soph.; Shelby Walton, G, 5-11/Sr.; Carlo Walton, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 2.2 apg, 1.6 spg, 15.8 mpg; academically ineligible first semester).
Top newcomers: DeAndre Harris, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Brad Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Stevie Johnson, F, 6-5/Fr.; Paul Shirley, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: 1945 (Big 8).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Ames, Iowa. **Home court:** Hilton Coliseum (14,020).

3. KANSAS STATE

Frontcourt: Coach Tom Asbury—who interviewed for the California coaching job in September—is going to have to think quickly in figuring out which talent is needed at a given time. Combined, his big men (make that his "tall" men) have most of the needed talents. Separately, each lacks something important. Even if Asbury juggles well, foes might kick sand in the Wildcats' faces. Center Gerald Eaker can block shots but can't shoot. JC transfer Dax Jones (7-0, 250) is a big body. Power forward Shawn Rhodes is agile and can shoot from outside, but he isn't strong enough to bang. The wild card is Australian newcomer Pero Vasiljevic. Word is he's a do-it-all type—slasher, passer, scorer—but that his defense is iffy and he needs muscle. Manny Dies should get a chance to help at power forward. Mark Young is a tremendous defender—but not a big scorer—at small forward.

Backcourt: K-State fans were panicked over the loss of point guard Elliot Hatcher, but the backcourt might actually be better in 1996-97. Transfer Chris Griffin is more of a true point guard than Hatcher and a much better defender. He isn't much of a scorer, though. Swingman Ayome May is deadly from 10-14 feet. Aaron Swartzendruber did gain confidence last year as a long-range shooter (he's the only K-State guard who can shoot from beyond the free-throw line), but he's still inconsistent.

Keys to success: The Wildcats must discover an outside shooter and hope Eaker discovers a scoring touch.

Outlook: Are there any centers or shooters out there willing to come to Manhattan, Kan.? The outlook and missing pieces for K-State always seem to be the same. Last year's hired gun—a JC transfer and long-range specialist—made just one significant shot, in the opener, and was gone before the end of the year. Still, there is real defensive talent. And there's more depth than there was last year, when the Wildcats played in the NCAA Tournament. This should be another year on the bubble.

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Tom Asbury (29-27, 2 years; 154-86 overall, 8 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-12. Big 8: 7-7/T4th. Lost to New Mexico in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost (2): Tyrone Davis, F (13.0 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 31.3 mpg); Elliot Hatcher, G (16.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.3 apg, **2.4 spg**, 81.7 FT%, 37.2 3-pt%, 34.7 mpg).
Others lost: Brian Gavin, G (7.0 mpg); George Hill, C; Chris Marsh, G (quit team); Johnnie Williams, C (quit team).
Starters returning (3): Gerald Eaker, C, 6-11/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 2.2 bpg, 45.6 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Ayome May, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (7.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 23.4 mpg); Aaron Swartzendruber, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 73.1 FT%, 20.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Manny Dies, F, 6-8/Soph. (10.0 mpg); Shawn Rhodes, F/C, 6-10/Soph. (4.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 18.4 mpg); Mark Young, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 36.8 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chris Griffin, G, 6-2/Soph. (transfer/Washington State); Dax Jones, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC); Joe Leonard, C, 7-0/Fr.; Marcus McCullough, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Josh Reid, G, 6-6/Fr.; Pero Vasiljevic, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1977 (Big 8).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Manhattan, Kan. **Home court:** Bramlage Coliseum (13,500).

4. MISSOURI

Frontcourt: At first, this would seem to be addition by subtraction, now that the circus has left Columbia. The 7-foot Haley twins, Sammie and Simeon, were supposed to be stars, but instead were just big attractions with bad hands, no touch and no muscle. Now they're gone, so that's the good news. The bad news is there's no one to replace them. Power forward Kelly Thames dominated games three years ago as a freshman, then limped around meekly last year after major knee surgery and a redshirt season. He should be healthy and significantly improved. Derek Grimm is an excellent shooter and a reliable power forward, too, so the Tigers might be forced to go with him and Thames and no center. JC transfer Tyron Lee is a first-rate shooter.

Backcourt: Jason Sutherland is a tremendous foul shooter and has opponents and coaches worrying about him all game long, wondering whether he's throwing cheap shots. It's effective, breaking down opponents' minds and bodies. But Kendrick Moore left the team during the offseason. That's a problem not only because Moore was expected to be the starting point guard, but also because he was this team's only point guard. If transfer Dibi Ray lives up to his JC numbers (46 percent on 3-point shooting and a 3-1 assist-turnover ratio), the backcourt will be fine. If not, Sutherland might have to run the point, which would make him much less effective. Danny Allouche and swingman Corey Tate will see a lot of time.

Keys to success: Finding a big man and a little man.

Outlook: The Tigers lost their momentum last year when they failed to make the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1985. Now, they appear to have no one in the middle and no one to run the offense, and the usually cantankerous Norm Stewart appears to have lost some of his coaching fire. Still, if there are no busts among the newcomers, Stewart will have enough talent for a decent year.

TIGERS DATA

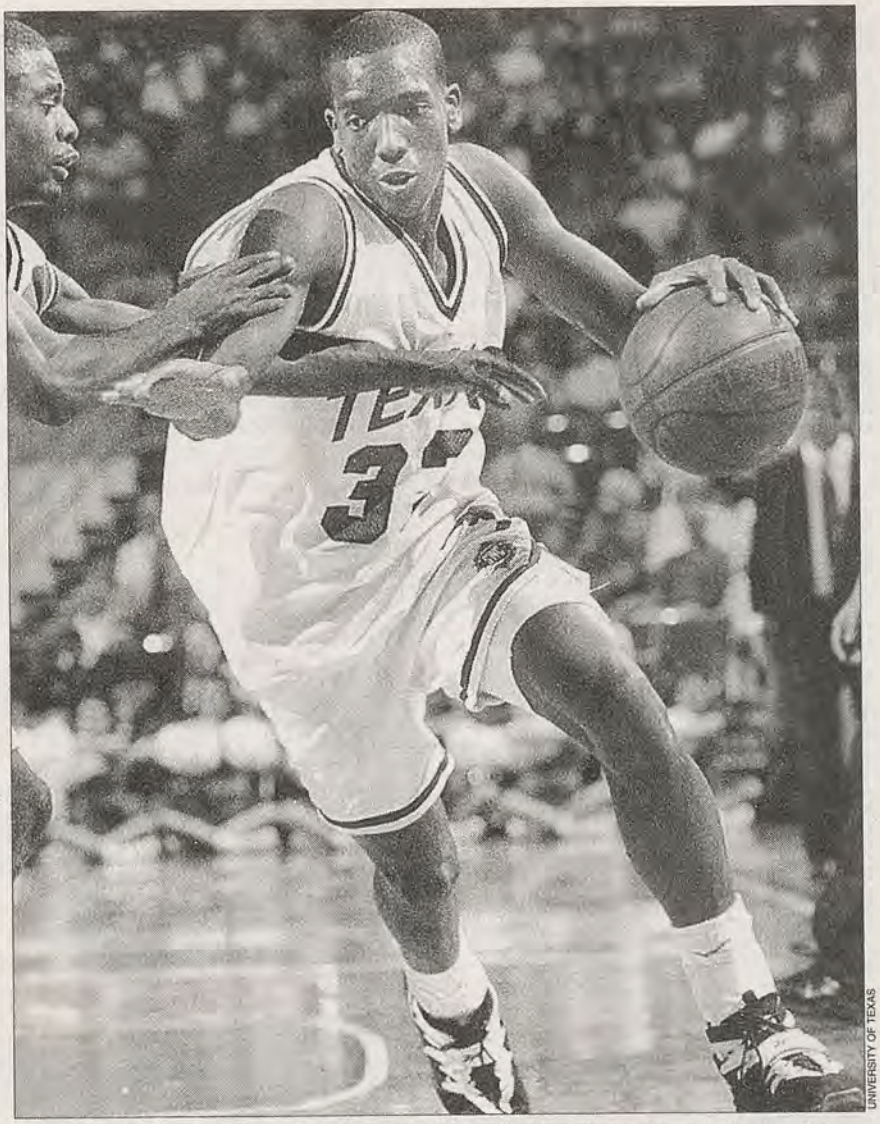
Coach: Norm Stewart (581-292, 29 years; 678-334 overall, 35 years; 12-15 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-15. Big 8: 6-8/6th. Lost to Alabama in NIT second round.
Starters lost (2): Simeon Haley, C (7.6 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 51.5 FG%, 18.1 mpg); Julian Winfield, G/F (8.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.9 apg, 52.2 FG%, 27.7 mpg).
Others lost: Scott Combs, F (transfer/Austin Peay); Desmond Ferguson, G (transfer/Detroit); Sammie Haley, C (7.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 51.3 FG%, 12.8 mpg); Kendrick Moore, G (4.7 ppg, 2.2 apg, 21.8 mpg; transfer/Providence).
Starters returning (3): Derek Grimm, F, 6-10/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg, **88.5 FT%**, 39.4 3-pt%, 23.2 mpg); Jason Sutherland, G, 6-1/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 48.3 FG%, 87.7 FT%, **46.6 3-pt%**, 27.6 mpg); Kelly Thames, F, 6-8/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 2.3 apg, 45.7 FG%, 77.3 FT%, 29.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Danny Allouche, G, 6-5/Soph. (4.3 ppg, 81.3 FT%, 12.4 mpg); Monte Hardge, C, 6-11/Soph. (academically ineligible for at least first semester); L. Dee Murdock, F/C, 6-9/Soph.; Dustin Reeve, C, 6-10/Sr.; Corey Tate, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 54.0 FG%, 17.0 mpg); Chip Walther, G, 5-11/Sr.
Top newcomers: Tate Decker, F/C, 6-10/Fr.; Jeff Hafer, G, 6-5/Fr.; Tyron Lee, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Dibi Ray, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1994 (Big 8).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Columbia, Mo. **Home court:** Hearnes Center (13,300).

5. NEBRASKA

Frontcourt: Coaches around the league say senior center Mikki Moore is loaded with potential. Trouble is, they said that last year, too, and he never developed. Moore is able to block shots and score, but three years haven't been enough for him to learn coach Danny Nee's system. If things click this year, Moore could star. And the Huskers need him. Forward Bernard Garner will be asked to score now that guards Jaron Boone and Erick Strickland are gone. Garner is up to the task. And forward Venson Hamilton is a real plus off the bench, as is Andy Markowski, who can bang. But there is no reliable small forward on the roster.

Backcourt: Point guard Tyronn Lue runs the offense well, but there is no outside shooter. The Cornhuskers might have to look to freshman guard Cookie Belcher, a distant cousin of Lue who hails from the same hometown (Mexico, Mo.). More than likely, though, they'll simply try to score everything from inside.

Key to success: The players must have faith in Nee. The team was rocked by dissension until its late-season run to the NIT championship last season. One day, on the heels of a nine-game losing streak, Nee called a practice and Lue and Garner were the only players to show up. The thinking is that the dissension came mostly from Boone, and left with him.



Freeman is a key part of Texas' deep and athletic backcourt. He was among team leaders in points, rebounds, assists and steals last season and played almost 37 minutes a game.

Outlook: When Nee recruited Boone, Strickland and Andre Woolridge in 1992, the Huskers were supposedly on the verge of joining the nation's elite teams. Now, those players are gone, and the Huskers are glad for the chance to rebuild. Considering the talent base of Moore, Garner and Lue, the Huskers could finish as high as third and make the NCAA Tournament even without perimeter players. But they also could finish last, considering their problems with Nee last year. Will the players listen to the coach this year? The season might be riding on the answer.

CORNHUSKERS DATA

Coach: Danny Nee (185-131, 11 years; 292-198 overall, 17 years; 1-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-14. Big 8: 4-10/7th. Beat St. Joseph's in NIT championship.
Starters lost (2): Jaron Boone, G (14.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 3.9 apg, 70.4 FT%, 31.3 mpg); Erick Strickland, G (14.6 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.8 spg, 80.9 FT%, 29.5 mpg).
Others lost: Terrance Badgett, F (6.9 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 57.2 FG%, 14.6 mpg); Jason Glock, G (7.7 mpg); Chad Ideus, F (transfer/Nebraska Wesleyan); Leif Nelson, C (transfer); Tom Wald, G (6.4 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 73.4 FT%, 47.7 3-pt%, 17.6 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Bernard Garner, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.0 spg, 55.5 FG%, 70.7 FT%, 25.7 mpg); Tyronn Lue, G, 6-0/Soph. (8.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.5 spg, 28.3 mpg); Mikki Moore, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 2.1 bpg, 58.6 FG%, 26.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Venson Hamilton, F/C, 6-9/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 55.1 FG%, 14.2 mpg); Andy Markowski, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.7 mpg); Chester Surles, F, 6-7/Soph.
Top newcomers: Cookie Belcher, G, 6-3/Fr.; Rodney Fields, G, 6-3/Fr.; Larry Florence, F, 6-6/Soph. (Prop 48); Alvin Mitchell, G, 6-0/Soph. (Prop 48); Ryan Phiefer, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Troy Piatkowski, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (Prop 48).
Last league title: 1950 (tie, Big 8).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lincoln, Neb. **Home court:** Bob Devaney Sports Center (14,200).

6. COLORADO

Frontcourt: Steve Ryan, a 6-10 freshman, was expected to contribute, but didn't gain eligibility and enrolled at a junior college. That means the middle will be manned by Dennis Griffin, a JC transfer last year who hasn't lived up to his defensive billing, and Charlie Melvin, who played one good game last season and went to a big-man camp last summer. Forward Martice Moore was supposed to be a star last year after transferring from Georgia Tech. Instead, he struggled early and seemed to have a knack for getting into trouble (he once was arrested for riding a bike without a light). Late in the season, though, after Ricardo Patton became coach and introduced discipline, Moore came on. The Buffs need him—and Dennis Rodman—because the monster won't rebound. Forward Fred Edmonds, who can score, also returns after missing most of last season with bad grades.
Backcourt: Chauncey Billups is one of the nation's best point guards, and with a year of experience should lend continuity. He could be the best basketball player in school history (no offense to Scott Wedman). Freshman Alan Barksdale, who is reputed to have a good outside shot, is the likely starter at off-guard.
Key to success: Moore must keep his head on straight.
Outlook: With Moore, Edmonds and Billups, the Buffs actually have talent. With Patton on the bench, they actually have discipline. But will they actually win games? So many years of losing make that prediction tough. Before last season, this was a program on the rise. By mid-year, coach Joe Harrington was gone. Under Patton, who got rid of the underperforming Mack Tuck, the talent will either learn to compete or be forced out. Are you listening, Martice?

BUFFALOES DATA

Coach: Ricardo Patton (4-9, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Big 8: 3-11/8th.
Starters lost (1): Mack Tuck, F/G (17.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.2 spg, 39.6 3-pt%, 33.2 mpg; transfer/Central Oklahoma).
Others lost: Matt Daniel, G (35.7 3-pt%, 13.3 mpg; transfer/Harding, Ark.); Ted Kritza, F (6.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 19.8 mpg; transfer/Tulane); Charles Thompson, F (transfer/JC).
Starters returning (4): Chauncey Billups, G, 6-3/Soph. (17.9 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 5.5 apg, 1.6 spg, 86.1 FT%, 35.4 3-pt%, 35.5 mpg); Greg Jensen, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 74.5 FT%, 17.4 mpg); Charlie Melvin, C, 6-10/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 15.3 mpg); Martice Moore, F, 6-8/Sr. (15.5 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 1.7 bpg, 49.0 FG%, 72.1 FT%, 40.3 3-pt%, 34.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Fred Edmonds, F, 6-6/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 56.9 FG%, 32.8 mpg); Howard Frier, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.9 mpg); Dennis Griffin, C, 6-9/Sr. (2.8 rpg, 12.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Alan Barksdale, G, 6-4/Fr.; Ronnie DeGray, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Devon Gilchrist, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Marlon Hughes, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Will Smith, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1969 (Big 8).
Last NCAA appearance: 1969.
Site: Boulder, Colo. **Home court:** Coors Events/Conference Center (11,198).

SOUTH DIVISION

1. TEXAS

Frontcourt: As is often the case for the Longhorns, Tom Penders will have to piece things together up front. As has rarely been the case, his top recruit, the powerfully built Gabe Muoneke, could be an inside force immediately. At center, either a slimmed-down Dennis "Bear" Jordan or a bulked-up Sheldon Quarles will have to become much more consistent. JC transfer Ira Clark could play a role. Kris Clack had a sensational freshman year as an undersized power forward. As a small forward/off-guard, his passing ability and general court sense should be even more valuable. Carlton Dixon provides offense off the bench at small forward.
Backcourt: If things go as planned with Clack and at the point, Reggie Freeman no longer will have to do everything. That should allow him to be an even better scorer and more consistent shooter. DeJuan Vazquez showed an unexpected talent for playing point guard last year, but Penders would rather see him back up Freeman, with either Titus Warmsley or newcomer

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

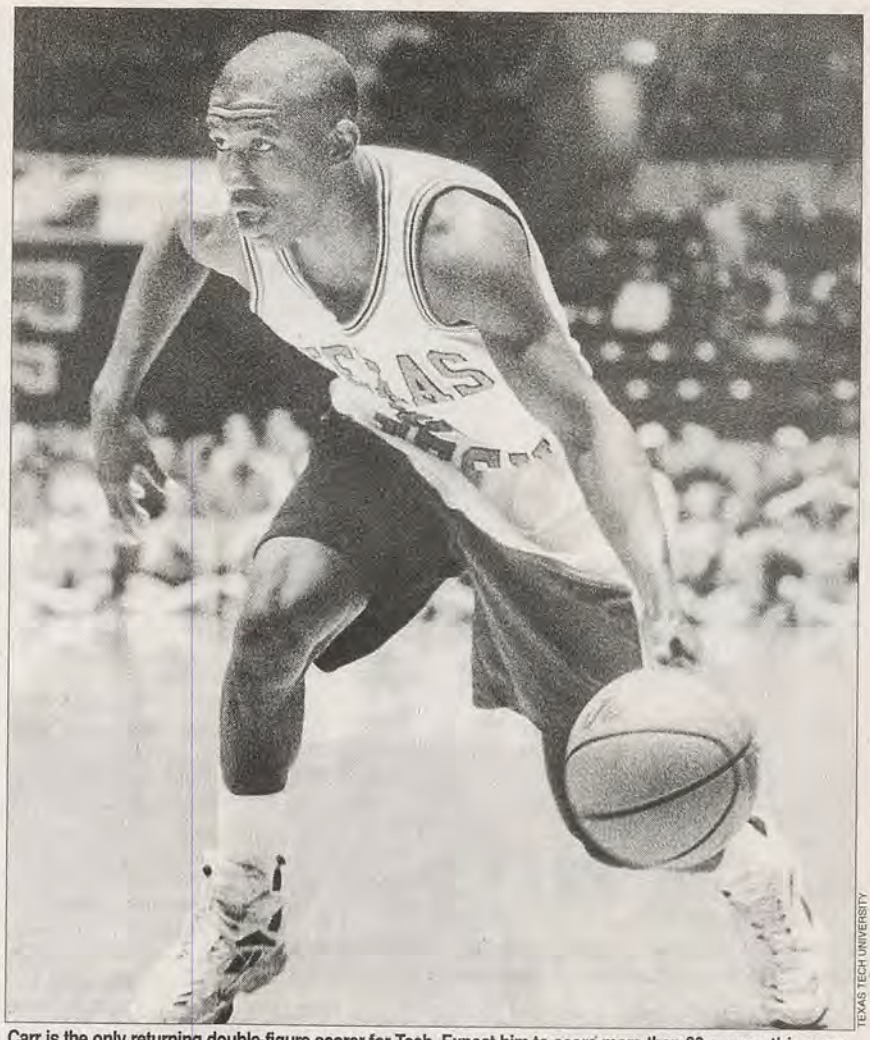
Anthony Goode developing into a quarterback. That would allow Brandy Perryman to go back to his designated gunner role.

Key to success: Scoring is guaranteed. Backcourt pressure and halfcourt defense are sure. But some combination of Jordan, Quarles, Clark and Muoneke will have to be solid on the boards and on defense.

Outlook: On the strength of its scoring and defense, Texas is the division favorite. As is often the case, the Longhorns will go into the season with questions up front, and they'll likely advance in the NCAA Tournament only as far as their big men will allow. By then, Muoneke could be the difference. That's a lot to expect from a freshman, but with his strength and game and Texas' style, he could be an inside player who won't have to play out of position.

LONGHORNS DATA

Coach: Tom Penders (176-81, 8 years; 446-290 overall, 25 years; 10-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-10. SWC: 10-4/3rd. Lost to Wake Forest in NCAA Midwest second round.
Starters lost (2): Sonny Alvarado, F (12.6 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.6 spg, 50.5 FG%, 72.6 FT%, 25.7 mpg); Lamont Hill, G (9.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.3 spg, 77.9 FT%, 26.3 mpg).
Others lost: Russell Freeman, C (quit team); Nate Gilmore, F/C.
Starters returning (3): Kris Clack, F/G, 6-5/Soph. (9.4 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.5 spg, 50.2 FG%, 35.9 3-pt%, 23.4 mpg); Reggie Freeman, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (22.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 4.0 apg, 2.3 spg, 73.2 FT%, 36.5 mpg); DeJuan Vazquez, G, 6-4/Soph. (5.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.1 spg, 19.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Al Coleman, G, 6-1/Sr.; Carlton Dixon, F, 6-5/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 14.0 mpg); Dennis Jordan, C, 6-9/Sr. (10.8 mpg); Jeremy Lamin, G, 6-2/Jr.; Brandy Perryman, G, 6-2/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 2.7 apg, 1.3 spg, 88.3 FT%, 28.1 mpg); Sheldon Quarles, C/F, 6-10/Sr. (8.4 mpg); Titus Warmsley, G, 5-10/Soph. (7.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ira Clark, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Anthony Goode, G, 6-1/Fr.; Gabe Muoneke, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1995 (tie, SWC).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Austin, Texas. **Home court:** Erwin Center (16,042).


TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Carr is the only returning double-figure scorer for Tech. Expect him to score more than 20 a game this year.

2. OKLAHOMA STATE

Frontcourt: Chianti Roberts is Eddie Sutton's kind of player. He plays great defense, can play a number of positions and is not in love with his shot. But he isn't a player capable of carrying a team offensively. Jason Skaer is more of a shooter, but he also cannot carry an offense. Instead, the Cowboys' frontcourt will have to settle for solid, with wide-body Maurice Robinson (a 274-pounder) likely to take over in the middle with help from the Robisch brothers. Brett, a transfer from Illinois, is eligible in January; Scott is a freshman. Freshman Desmond Mason comes highly touted.

Backcourt: The Cowboys had gotten used to having Andre Owens to run the offense the past two years. With him gone, they have no true point guard. Sutton might try Marlon Dorsey, who showed a talent for taking care of the ball. Touted freshman Joe Adkins is a true point guard, but he also is a true freshman. R.W. McQuarters can play some point, but he'll play football first. Adrian Peterson returns at off-guard and should become a consistent scorer. Chad Alexander also is a solid outside threat.

Key to success: Finding a point guard. Sutton's teams don't have to score like mad to win, but they must play tough defense and take care of the ball. Much of that comes from the backcourt.

Outlook: When Oklahoma State went through a midseason slide that left the Cowboys out of the NCAA Tournament (the school passed on an NIT invite), Sutton openly looked forward to this season. Expect a strong defensive team with just enough scoring to contend in the South and upset a few North Division teams.

COWBOYS DATA

Coach: Eddie Sutton (140-55, 6 years; 570-219 overall, 26 years; 27-18 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-10. Big 8: 7-7/T4th.
Starters lost (2): Jerome Lambert, C (13.0 ppg, 6.6 rpg, **54.4 FG%**, 27.6 mpg); Andre Owens, G (7.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.4 apg, 2.2 spg, 78.5 FT%, 30.9 mpg).
Others lost: Kevin Miles, F (10.6 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Adrian Peterson, G, 6-4/Soph. (11.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.0 apg, 75.7 FT%, 39.6 3-pt%, 27.8 mpg); Chianti Roberts, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.7 spg, 50.9 FG%, 29.5 mpg); Jason Skaer, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 36.4 3-pt%, 29.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Chad Alexander, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 44.2 3-pt%, 9.2 mpg); Marlon Dorsey, G, 6-4/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 36.1 3-pt%, 15.4 mpg); Billy Lewis, G, 6-1/Soph.; R.W. McQuarters, G, 5-11/Soph. (9.8 mpg); Maurice Robinson, C, 6-7/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 57.5 FG%, 20.8 mpg); Tommy Warner, G, 6-0/Soph.
Top newcomers: Joe Adkins, G, 6-2/Fr.; Estell Laster, G, 6-2/Fr.; Desmond Mason, F, 6-6/Fr.; Brett Robisch, F/C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Illinois); Scott Robisch, F, 6-10/Fr.; Reggie Tate, G, 6-4/Fr.; Alex Webber, F, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1991 (tie, Big 8).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Stillwater, Okla. **Home court:** Gallagher-Iba Arena (6,381).

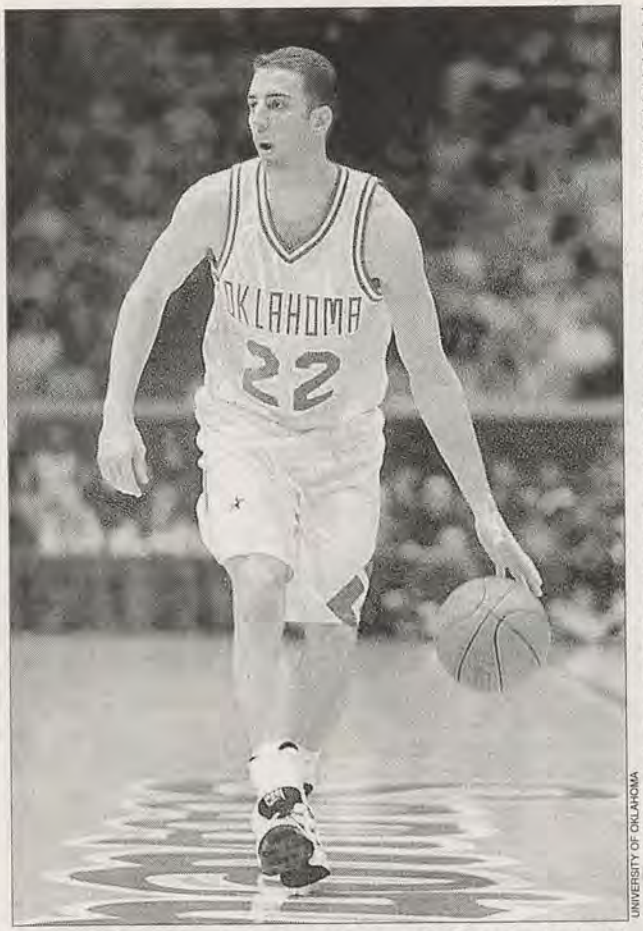
3. TEXAS TECH

Frontcourt: Tony Battie is the only returning starter from the best team in Tech history, and he will have to carry a much larger load. He showed signs he could handle it, taking over several games in the second half of last season. But Tech will need that for all of this season and for 35 minutes a night. Coach James Dickey will have to count on Gionet Cooper, Battie's backup last season, at power forward, with Gracen Averil, who sat out last season, likely taking over at small forward. Freshman Richard Evans also could figure as a scorer at guard or forward, but he still had not qualified academically as of early September. If he qualifies, the earliest he will play is January.

Backcourt: Cory Carr was one of the nation's top sixth men last season, and he comes off a strong summer on the USA Under-22 team. Stanley Bonewitz, an outstanding shooter, should be a more consistent point guard as a sophomore. Archie Myers, a JC transfer who originally signed with Rice, could move in at either guard spot. Tech also might try to find time for freshman Rayford Young.

Key to success: If Battie can dominate inside, the patched up front line will be enough. But Battie hasn't ever been asked to carry that level of responsibility.

Outlook: Replacing four senior starters in one year will be tough. But Battie and Carr can be stars and Tech is solid everywhere else. Getting Evans, even in January, could be a key. Last season's 30-2 record won't be repeated, but the NCAA invite could.



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Erdmann had a solid year in his first season with the Sooners. He should help make Oklahoma's backcourt the foundation of this year's team.

handle some of the dirty work.

Backcourt: Nate Erdmann was Oklahoma's most consistent scorer, Minor included, down the stretch last season. Off-guard is likely the most solid position on the team, with returnee Michael Cotton and newcomer Corey Brewer backing up Erdmann. Freshmen Tim Heskett and Tony Heard and JC transfer Daryl Kelsey likely will battle for the point guard job, with Heskett the likely starter if coach Kelvin Sampson is looking for a quarterback type. Kelsey is perhaps the best scorer of the three.

Keys to success: Oklahoma is so deep at off-guard that it could play a three-guard lineup and still have enough muscle to handle the work inside. But a point guard must emerge.

Outlook: The Sooners will miss Minor and Abercrombie but will look much more like a typical Sampson team. The Sooners will play tough defense, take care of the ball and score consistently, if not explosively, in the halfcourt. Less clear is whether they will have the firepower to reach the postseason.

SOONERS DATA

Coach: Kelvin Sampson (40-22, 2 years; 216-170 overall, 13 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-13. Big 8: 8-6/3rd. Lost to Temple in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost (3): Ernie Abercrombie, F (13.6 ppg, **10.1 rpg**, 51.7 FG%, 34.2 mpg); Tyrone Foster, G (10.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 5.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 82.6 FT%, 36.8 3-pt%, 35.1 mpg; left school); Ryan Minor, F (**21.3 ppg**, 7.6 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.6 spg, 82.2 FT%, 37.1 mpg).
Others lost: Dion Barnes, G (9.2 ppg, 2.6 apg, 74.0 FT%, 43.1 3-pt%, 26.1 mpg); Jason Yanish, C (8.0 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Nate Erdmann, G, 6-5/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 50.2 FG%, 71.6 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 32.4 mpg); Bobby Joe Evans, C, 6-9/Soph. (5.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 45.4 FG%, 17.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Robert Allison, G, 6-5/Jr. (RS/back); Michael Cotton, G, 6-5/Soph. (9.8 mpg); Evan Wiley, C, 6-11/Jr. (3.8 rpg, 14.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Corey Brewer, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Tony Heard, G, 6-0/Fr.; Tim Heskett, G, 6-2/Fr.; Daryl Kelsey, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Lou Moore, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Indiana); Eduardo Najera, F, 6-8/Fr.; Renzi Stone, F/C, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1989 (Big 8).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Norman, Okla. **Home court:** Lloyd Noble Center (11,100).

5. TEXAS A&M

Frontcourt: Forwards Gary Nottingham (who was dismissed over the summer) and Dario Quesada were A&M's top frontcourt scorers last season, but the development of sophomores Brad Stricker and Calvin Davis and prep All-American Jerald Brown could be the key. Stricker and Davis have outstanding potential and played internationally over the summer. Brown—probably the most-touted recruit in A&M history—could be a valuable scorer, though Quesada will be able to provide ample offense until he's ready. Transfers Shanne Jones and Larry Thompson also will see playing time.

Backcourt: Tracey Anderson played most of last season with injuries and was still the team's best defender and top scorer. If healthy, he could be a key to A&M's season. He will move to the point with the departure of Kyle Kessel, who decided on a pro baseball career. Derrick Hart is an outstanding shooter, but at 5-8, he's not really an off-guard. Freshman Steve Houston could demand playing time quickly. Brown also will see time at off-guard.

Key to success: If Stricker, Davis and Brown develop quickly—and they've shown that potential—A&M will have an outstanding young trio.

Outlook: A&M was better than its 11-16 record (seven of the final 11 games were lost in the last 30 seconds). But the Aggies are very young; they're counting on contributions from two sophomores, two freshmen and two transfers.

AGGIES DATA

Coach: Tony Barone (60-72, 5 years; 162-164 overall, 11 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-16. SWC: 3-11/T7th.
Starters lost (2): Kyle Kessel, G (2.3 rpg, 6.8 apg, 1.4 apg, 33.3 mpg; pursuing pro baseball career); Gary Nottingham, F (9.2 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 30.9 mpg; dismissed from team).
Others lost: Matt Haralson, F; Quinton James, G (11.4 mpg; transfer); Joel Ockey, G/F (Mormon mission); Max Schleder, G (8.8 mpg; quit team).
Starters returning (3): Tracey Anderson, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.2 apg, 2.0 spg, 81.4 FT%); Dario Quesada, F, 6-9/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.0 spg, 85.5 FT%, 27.2 mpg); Brad Stricker, C, 6-11/Soph. (2.8 rpg, 17.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Calvin Davis, F, 6-8/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 71.2 FT%, 20. 1 mpg); Derrick Hart, G, 5-8/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 2.2 apg, 1.6 spg, 72.2 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brian Barone, G, 6-0/Fr.; Jerald Brown, F/G, 6-8/Fr.; Steve Houston, G, 6-2/Fr.; Shanne Jones, F, 6-5/Soph. (transfer/Stetson); Larry Thompson, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1986 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: College Station, Texas. **Home court:** G. Rollie White Coliseum (7,500).

6. BAYLOR

Frontcourt: The Bears refused to build everything around center Brian Skinner, even limiting him to 33 minutes a game last year. But in his third season, Skinner might be ready to take over. He is without question the Bears' best offensive and defensive player. And he picked up needed experience on the USA Under-22 team. Doug Brandt is a decent scorer and rebounder with a knack on the offensive boards, but he has never developed as a finisher. Baylor would like to get immediate help from freshmen Jamie Kendrick and Todd Fields and JC transfer Rahsaan Jones.

Backcourt: Damond Mannon, a JC recruit last year, was an inconsistent first-year point guard but showed flashes. Rodney Smith also showed a talent for running an offense, but he will get a late start because of football responsibilities. JC transfer Patrick Hunter could get a look at the point.

RED RAIDERS DATA

Coach: James Dickey (100-49, 5 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 30-2. SWC: 14-0/1st. Lost to Georgetown in NCAA East semifinals.
Starters lost (4): Darvin Ham, F/C (9.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 58.1 FG%, 23.4 mpg); Jason Martin, G (2.7 rpg, 28.3 mpg); Jason Sasser, F (19.5 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 3.0 apg, 45.8 FG%, 72.6 FT%, 34.5 mpg); Koy Smith, G (13.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.2 apg, 78.4 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (1): Tony Battie, C, 6-11/Jr. (9.7 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 2.3 bpg, 26.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Gracen Averil, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (RS); Brock Barnes, G, 6-5/Sr.; Stanley Bonewitz, G, 6-3/Soph. (2.1 apg, 45.2 FG%, 72.2 FT%, 12.6 mpg); Cory Carr, G, 6-4/Jr. (16.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 76.1 FT%, 39.1 3-pt%, 25.3 mpg); Gionet Cooper, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (3.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 53.6 FG%, 61.5 FG%, 12.7 mpg); Deuce Jones, G, 6-1/Sr.; Da'Mon Roberts, F, 6-7/Sr.
Top newcomers: Ross Carmichael, C/F, 6-10/Fr.; Richard Evans, F/G, 6-5/Fr. (academically ineligible first semester); Archie Myers, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Cliff Owens, F, 6-8/Fr.; Rayford Young, G, 5-11/Fr.
Last league title: 1996 (SWC).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Lubbock, Texas. **Home court:** Lubbock Municipal Coliseum (8,174).

4. OKLAHOMA

Frontcourt: With Evan Wiley and Bobby Joe Evans, Oklahoma will have the biggest centers in the Big 12. Without Ryan Minor and Ernie Abercrombie, Oklahoma likely will need more from them. Both can be solid centers, but Wiley needs to improve from the free-throw line. Neither can carry an offense. Indiana transfer Lou Moore likely will have to pick up some of the frontcourt scoring slack, with freshmen Eduardo Najera and Renzi Stone around to

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Baylor's Skinner is by far the best player on his team and one of the best in the nation.

Roddrick Miller, the coach's son, returns at off-guard, but he is expected to be pushed by freshman Leon Morris.

Keys to success: Baylor needs to get more from Skinner without ignoring the rest of its press-and-run game. Skinner can be unstoppable, and it's time his teammates defer to him and still score when needed.

Outlook: The Bears, who had good showings in losses to Texas, Texas Tech and Houston last season before hitting a wall, should be able to make a few upset bids again, especially if Skinner's supporting cast can contribute consistently without turning the big man into a spectator waiting for offensive rebounds.

BEARS DATA

Coach: Harry Miller (18-37, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 9-18. SWC: 4-11/6th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Jeremy Clark, G (9 mpg; left team); Kenyatta Clyde, F (left team).
Starters returning (5): Doug Brandt, F, 6-10/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1 spg, 73.2 FT%, 30.0 mpg); Damond Mannon, G, 6-1/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 42.1 3-pt%, 31.5 mpg); John Perkins, F, 6-5/Jr. (3.9 rpg, 71.4 FT%, 20.8 mpg); Brian Skinner, C, 6-10/Jr. (17.6 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 3.0 bpg, 60.1 FG%, 33.3 mpg); Rodney Smith, G, 6-1/Soph. (6.3 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.3 spg, 26.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Brice Bolen, F, 6-6/Jr.; Richard Johnson, F, 6-4/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 12.7 mpg); Roddrick Miller, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 27.0 mpg); Gabe Ramirez, F, 6-7/Soph. (9.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Todd Fields, F, 6-10/Fr.; Patrick Hunter, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC); David Jones, G, 6-6/Fr.; Rahsaan Jones, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jamie Kendrick, F, 6-8/Fr.; Leon Morris, G, 6-6/Fr.
Last league title: 1950 (tie, SWC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Waco, Texas. **Home court:** Ferrell Center (10,084). ◆

Greg Couch, now with the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal, wrote the North preview; he covered the Big Eight last season for the Wichita (Kan.) Eagle. Jonathan Feigen, who wrote the South preview, covers the Big 12 for the Houston Chronicle.

Ascending: Texas A&M. Suddenly, Team Dissension is Team Harmony. Last year, Aggies players went to the athletic director to complain about the personality, approach, style, breath—you name it—of coach Tony Barone. Barone agreed to have a weekly communication counseling session with the players. It's working. And with unity, this team doesn't figure to lose seven of its last 11 games in the final 30 seconds, like it did last year. Barone also has landed recruiting classes ranked among A&M's best ever the past two years.

Descending: Missouri. What happened? You'd think after all those years of success, coach Norm Stewart could at least have found one decent point guard or center. But last year, the Tigers didn't contend, top player Julian Winfield ran out of eligibility and then the team's only legitimate point guard, Kendrick Moore, left Columbia for Providence because he couldn't handle Stewart's style. Worst of all, Stewart sat calmly on the bench. What's Missouri without him ranting and raving?

Biggest sneakers to fill: Texas Tech forward Jason Sasser's. The SWC's top player last year gave his team muscle, scoring, rebounding, defense, an example of hard work and spiritual leadership. His replacement likely will be Gracen Averil, a junior who redshirted last season.

Most underrated player: Iowa State forward Kenny Pratt. He is short and slow, can't jump and doesn't have much muscle. But every time you look up, he's taking another power forward off his feet with a head fake or backing someone up under the basket by placing his, uh, base into a defender's knees. One Big 12 assistant called him the next Adrian Dantley.

Most overrated player: Iowa State guard Jacy Holloway. Because of some fine moments against Kansas' Jacque Vaughn in the Big Eight Tournament, and because of his steadiness, some have called Holloway the most underrated player in the league. Everyone is starting to think a little too highly of him. He's steady, yes. But it's steady-average.

Coach on the hot seat: Nebraska's Danny Nee. It's a good thing Nee wasn't planning a scrimmage the day most of his players boycotted practice and complained to the athletic director about him. It wouldn't have been much of a scrimmage, Bernard Garner vs. Tyronn Lue. Those were the only players to show up. Nee also was in trouble with fans, who have forgotten how bad things were in Lincoln before he got there. Word was the athletic department didn't fire Nee because it wanted to show the players who was boss. Then, things turned and Nebraska won the NIT. The upswing better continue. Nee has raised the level of the program in 11 years, but only from bad to a solid mediocre.

Best bets: Magazines, newspapers and TV will do stories on what a good person KU's Jacque Vaughn is. ... Vaughn will not be a top 10 pick in the 1997 NBA draft. ... Now that Texas A&M is getting a new arena ($36 million Reed Arena is scheduled to open in fall 1997), Texas Tech will keep up with the Joneses after having finally received approval for its new place, leaving dumpy Lubbock Municipal Coliseum behind. Groundbreaking on the new arena is slated for early next year. ... Kansas coach Roy Williams will be rumored for a job opening elsewhere. ... Baylor center Brian Skinner will lure more than a few NBA scouts to Waco. ... An announcer will point out that four of Kansas' five starters are native Californians.

Odds and ends: Before the new conference was officially formed, the Big Eight coaches complained that the Texas schools would make for a weak league. They were right, of course, except in the case of Texas. This gives Longhorns coach Tom Penders plenty of bulletin-board material. ... Roy Williams' record after eight seasons at Kansas is 213-56. Nobody in history has won more games in his first eight years as a coach. Williams' .792 winning percentage is second in the nation among active coaches (five years minimum) to Jerry Tarkanian (.829). ... Colorado coach Ricardo Patton, a former TV news cameraman, has a black belt in tae kwon do. ... In 1995-96, Iowa State swept four league teams (Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma) for the first time in one season and also won its first Big Eight Tournament title. ... Kansas State forward Manny Dies, a breakthrough in-state recruit for coach Tom Asbury two years ago, announced during the summer that he was unhappy and would leave the program. Alas, K-State wouldn't let him out of his scholarship, so he returned. ... Penders needs only three more victories to become the winningest coach in Texas history. Jack Gray won 178 games at Texas in 12 seasons from 1937-42 and '46-51. ... Jacque Vaughn, with 642 career assists, needs 43 more to pass former Jayhawk Cedric Hunter for the all-time Big Eight record. Even though the Big Eight doesn't exist anymore, the plan is to let Vaughn have the Big Eight record, but with an asterisk. ◆

—GREG COUCH

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Texas A&M (F/G Jerald Brown). Brown is a do-everything, Scottie Pippen-type who can shoot, pass, handle the ball and play defense. At 6-8, 215, he is athletic and can play almost any position.
2. Texas (F Gabe Muoneke).
3. Oklahoma State (G Joe Adkins).
4. Oklahoma (G Corey Brewer).
5. Kansas (G/F Nicky Bradford).
6. Baylor (F Jamie Kendrick).
7. Colorado (F Ronnie DeGray).
8. Iowa State (F Stevie Johnson).
9. Kansas State (F Pero Vasiljevic).
10. Nebraska (G Ryan Phiefer).
11. Missouri (F/G Tyron Lee).
12. Texas Tech (F/G Richard Evans).

CONFERENCE USA

Conference Rank: 7

By Mike DeCourcy

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

RED DIVISION	WHITE DIVISION
1. TULANE	1. LOUISVILLE
2. UAB	2. HOUSTON
3. SOUTHERN MISS	3. MEMPHIS
4. SOUTH FLORIDA	4. UNC CHARLOTTE

BLUE DIVISION

1. CINCINNATI
2. MARQUETTE
3. SAINT LOUIS
4. DePAUL

ALL-C-USA TEAM

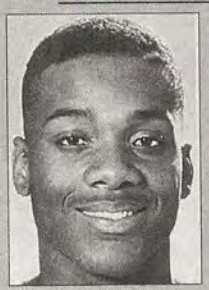
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	DANNY FORTSON, Cincinnati	6-7/260	Jr.
F	JERALD HONEYCUTT, Tulane	6-9/245	Sr.
G	AARON HUTCHINS, Marquette	5-10/170	Jr.
G	DeJUAN WHEAT, Louisville	6-0/165	Sr.
F	CARLOS WILLIAMS, UAB	6-7/190	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	DARNELL BURTON, Cincinnati	6-2/201	Sr.
F	KENYA CAPERS, Houston	6-5/200	Sr.
F	JEFF HARRIS, Saint Louis	6-5/225	Sr.
F	DeMARCO JOHNSON, UNC Charlotte	6-8/235	Jr.
G	DAMIEN SMITH, Southern Miss	5-10/165	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



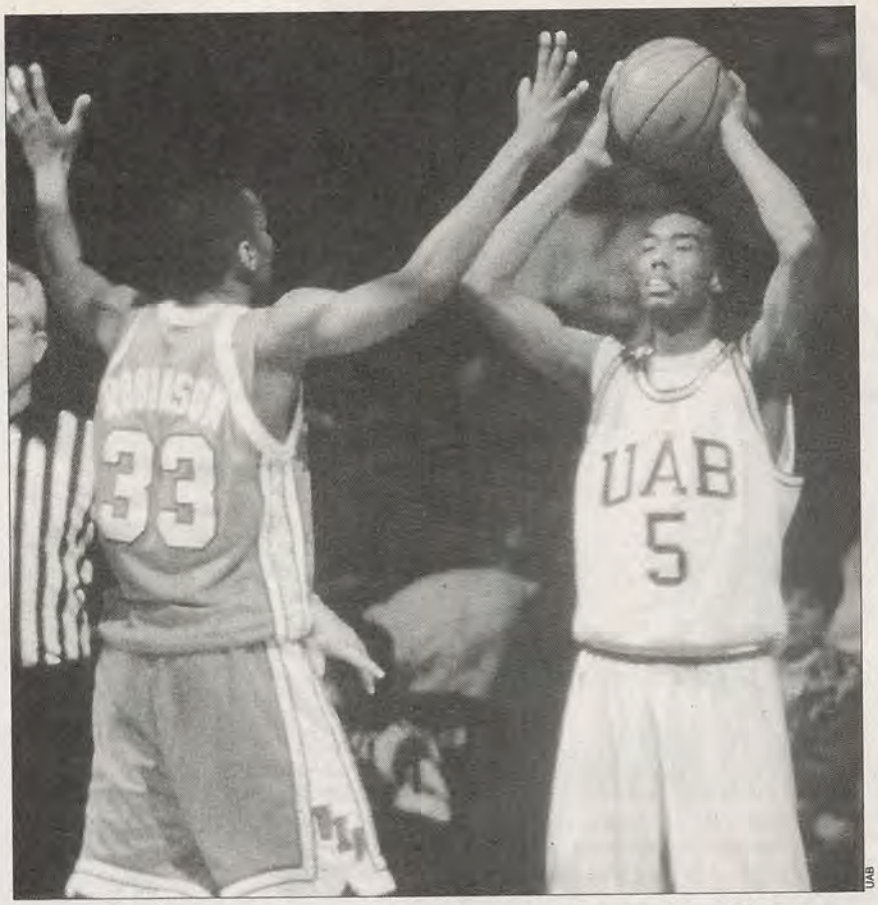
DANNY FORTSON
F, Cincinnati

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

RUBEN PATTERSON, F, Cincinnati

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Darnell Burton, Cincinnati.
Best rebounder: James Harper, South Florida.
Best playmaker: Aaron Hutchins, Marquette.
Best defender: Alvin Sims, Louisville.
Best leaper: Melvin Levett, Cincinnati.
Best under 6 foot: Aaron Hutchins, Marquette.
Best over 7 foot: Alexander Kuehl, UNC Charlotte.
Most versatile: Cedric Henderson, Memphis.
Most flamboyant: Jerald Honeycutt, Tulane.
Best NBA prospect: Danny Fortson, Cincinnati.



UAB usually looks to Williams to do the scoring. And Williams usually comes through: He led the league in scoring last season with a 20.2 average. He could stand to improve his percentage, though.

RED DIVISION

1. TULANE

Frontcourt: The Green Wave has two talented senior forwards in Jerald Honeycutt and Rayshard Allen, but it's time experience meant something. Honeycutt, with the ability to handle the ball, pass and shoot from long range, is as versatile as any player in college. But he's prone to turnovers and simple, fundamental mistakes that frequently keep his team from taking command. Allen, who could be a force on in the post, needs to defend better and keep from disappearing at crucial times. Lawrence Nelson is improving in the middle, especially as a shot blocker. From the bench comes rugged insider Correy Childs and Keith Harris, who is expected to provide a more varied scoring touch.

Backcourt: Derrick Moore's slow development as a playmaker forced LeVeldro Simmons back to the point last season. That option has departed along with Simmons. Moore has to run the offense properly this time, or a lot of this team's potential will go unrealized. Shooting guard Patrick Lewis can be a dynamic scorer; he'll share the position with muscular Chris Cameron, who can post up just about any guard in the league but struggles from beyond the 3-point arc.

Key to success: Honeycutt has to inflict more damage to opponents than to his team.

Outlook: There is more than enough talent, but Tulane has not always played with intelligence and competitive zeal. On defense, there is a need to apply better pressure on the perimeter: Opponents shot 35.5 percent from 3-point range. The good work done to force 17 turnovers a game was wasted with the Wave's offensive sloppiness. If the Green Wave is to advance beyond the NIT/early NCAA victim stage, this is the time.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

GREEN WAVE DATA

Coach: Perry Clark (125-86, 7 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-10. Conference USA Red: 9-5/1st. Beat Alabama in NIT third-place game.
Starters lost (1): LeVeldro Simmons, G (12.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.7 apg, 2.0 spg, 78.8 FT%, 38.0 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg).
Others lost: Shun Sheffield, C (9.5 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Rayshard Allen, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg, **57.5 FG%**, 1.0 spg, 27.7 mpg); Chris Cameron, G, 6-4/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 50.2 FG%, 30.3 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg), Jerald Honeycutt, F, 6-9/Sr. (18.0 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 3.8 apg, 1.4 bpg, 1.7 spg, 34.3 mpg); Lawrence Nelson, C, 6-10/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, **2.0 bpg**, 54.4 FG%, 17.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Correy Childs, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 52.4 FG%, 1.7 apg, 1.4 spg); Keith Harris, F, 6-7/Soph.; Patrick Lewis, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.1 ppg, 2.4 apg, 1.8 spg, 75.6 FT%, 35.8 3-pt%); Derrick Moore, G, 6-1/Soph. (44.0 3-pt%, 15.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Sterling Davis, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Morris Jordan, F, 6-9/Fr.; Billy Wells, G, 6-2/Fr.
Last league title: 1996 (Red Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: New Orleans. **Home court:** Fogelman Arena (3,600).

2. UAB

Frontcourt: No player in the league heats up quicker than small forward Carlos Williams, who is more proficient than efficient (42.5 percent from the field). He's difficult to guard because of a quick first step; he also has the ability to convince oppo-

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

nents he's not worth attention beyond the arc, then make four in a row. The other returning front line players are nondescript. Power forward Norman Williams and center James Bristow aren't threatening offensively, although Williams has defended the post well. Backup Chris Lee improved his shot selection but still is a defensive liability. JC recruit Hal Lewis could take a starting forward spot opposite Williams.

Backcourt: Tiny Cedric Dixon has struggled because of bouncing between point guard and shooting guard, but he's one of the league's most explosive players. The need for scoring punch and overall size will put him back in charge of the offense, with Chad Jones and Damon Cobb sharing the off-guard spot. There still isn't anyone who has proven he can consistently make 3-pointers.

Key to success: Coach Murry Bartow must demonstrate the same gift for teaching halfcourt man-to-man defense as his father, Gene.

Outlook: This is a senior-dominated team, but only one senior, Williams, is a dominant player. The past two recruiting classes haven't produced impact players to help Williams and Dixon return the team to postseason play after a two-year drought. The transition to a new coach is likely to have some impact, but because Murry Bartow has no track record, it's hard to say what that will be. No one in the league defends its homecourt more ferociously, so UAB is likely to win enough to approach last season's 16-14 mark.

BLAZERS DATA

Coach: Murry Bartow (1st year).
1995-96 record: 16-14. Conference USA Red: 6-8/T2nd.
Starters lost (1): Anthony Thomas, F (11.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 72.9 FT%, 28.2 mpg).
Others lost: Jeremy Bearden, F (8.5 mpg); Leonard Bush, G (6.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 44.2 3-pt%, 19.5 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Cedric Dixon, G, 5-9/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 29.4 mpg); Chad Jones, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.1 apg, 79.7 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 28.5 mpg); Carlos Williams, F, 6-7/Sr. (**20.2 ppg**, 8.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 70.9 FT%, 36.3 mpg); Norman Williams, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 47.4 FG%, 22.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Will Bailey, G, 6-1/Sr. (2.1 apg, 14.9 mpg); James Bristow, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (3.8 rpg, 14.7 mpg); Damon Cobb, G, 6-4/Soph. (7.1 ppg, 75.0 FT%, 16.1 mpg); Chris Lee, F, 6-8/Sr. (62.9 FG%, 8.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chris Albritton, F, 6-7/Fr.; Earl Ike, C, 6-8/Fr.; Hal Lewis, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Felix Okam, C, 6-9/Soph. (transfer/Alabama State); Torrey Ward, G, 6-3/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** UAB Arena (8,500).

3. SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Frontcourt: The Golden Eagles will have a solid low-post combination if sturdy recruit Vandarel Jones is eligible. Regardless, Anthony Richards, last season's conference freshman of the year, is back. Richards lacked polish around the goal and was a lousy free-throw shooter; improvement in either area could make him the league's best center. Small forward Kelly McCarty is a dangerous long-distance shooter but spends too much time stranded behind the 3-point line. A player with his athletic ability, free-throw touch and inside skills could become more productive by varying his approach. Mike Jones contributes little aside from stability at the other forward spot.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Southern Mississippi's Smith is a good outside shooter who also can slash to the basket.

Backcourt: When healthy, Damien Smith is extremely difficult for defenses to contain, equally adept at penetrating the lane or shooting from long distance. His percentages are low because of the burden he carries, but few point guards have the same quickness and energy. Smith hasn't had the right guy to go with him and will have a new partner this year, likely senior George Scott, who has not been a scoring force.

Key to success: If Richards turns out to be a player rather than the best of a bad freshman crop, the Golden Eagles could rebound to a winning season.

Outlook: With Smith in last season's penultimate regular-season game, the Eagles beat Saint Louis by 16. Without him in the conference tournament, they lost to the Billikens by 17. That's how important he is. How rapidly he recovers from knee surgery will determine how rapidly the team progresses. Even if Smith is fine, it should be a challenging first season for coach James Green. He'll spend the year thankful South Florida is in the same division.

GOLDEN EAGLES DATA

Coach: James Green (1st year).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Conference USA Red: 6-8/T2nd.
Starters lost (1): Sam Jones, G (8.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1 spg, 35.8 3-pt%, 29.1 mpg).
Others lost: Steve Anderson, C.
Starters returning (4): Mike Jones, F , 6-6/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1 spg, 22.0 mpg); Kelly McCarty, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 1.9 spg, 1.1 bpg, 79.0 FT%, 31.9 mpg); Anthony Richards, C/F, 6-9/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 46.5 FG%, 27.0 mpg); Damien Smith, G, 5-10/Sr. (17.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.2 apg, 1.7 spg, 74.1 FT%, 34.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Roderick Agee, G/F, 6-5/Jr.; Ross Dorr, F/C, 6-9/Soph. (RS/knee); Jimmie Floyd, G, 6-5/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 11.1 mpg); Marcus Price, G, 6-0/Jr. (37.3 3-pt%, 17.9 mpg); Philip Prince, G, 6-1/Jr. (RS/illness); Damien Roberts, F, 6-7/Jr.; George Scott, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 22 mpg).
Top newcomers: Billy Henderson, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Vandarel Jones F, 6-9/Fr. (ineligible for at least first semester).
Last league title: 1991 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Hattiesburg, Miss. **Home court:** Reed Green Coliseum (8,095).

4. SOUTH FLORIDA

Frontcourt: It ought to be a good thing the team is returning two starters in its frontcourt, but small forward Luka Jovanovic kept his job by default through most of the season. The league's more athletic small forwards were eager to guard him, and he offered little resistance to their attacks on the goal. Power forward James Harper plays inside with authority and is one of the best rebounders in the league. He'll have less help in that regard with freshman

Federico Peruzzo, more of a finesse player, replacing Donzel Rush at center.

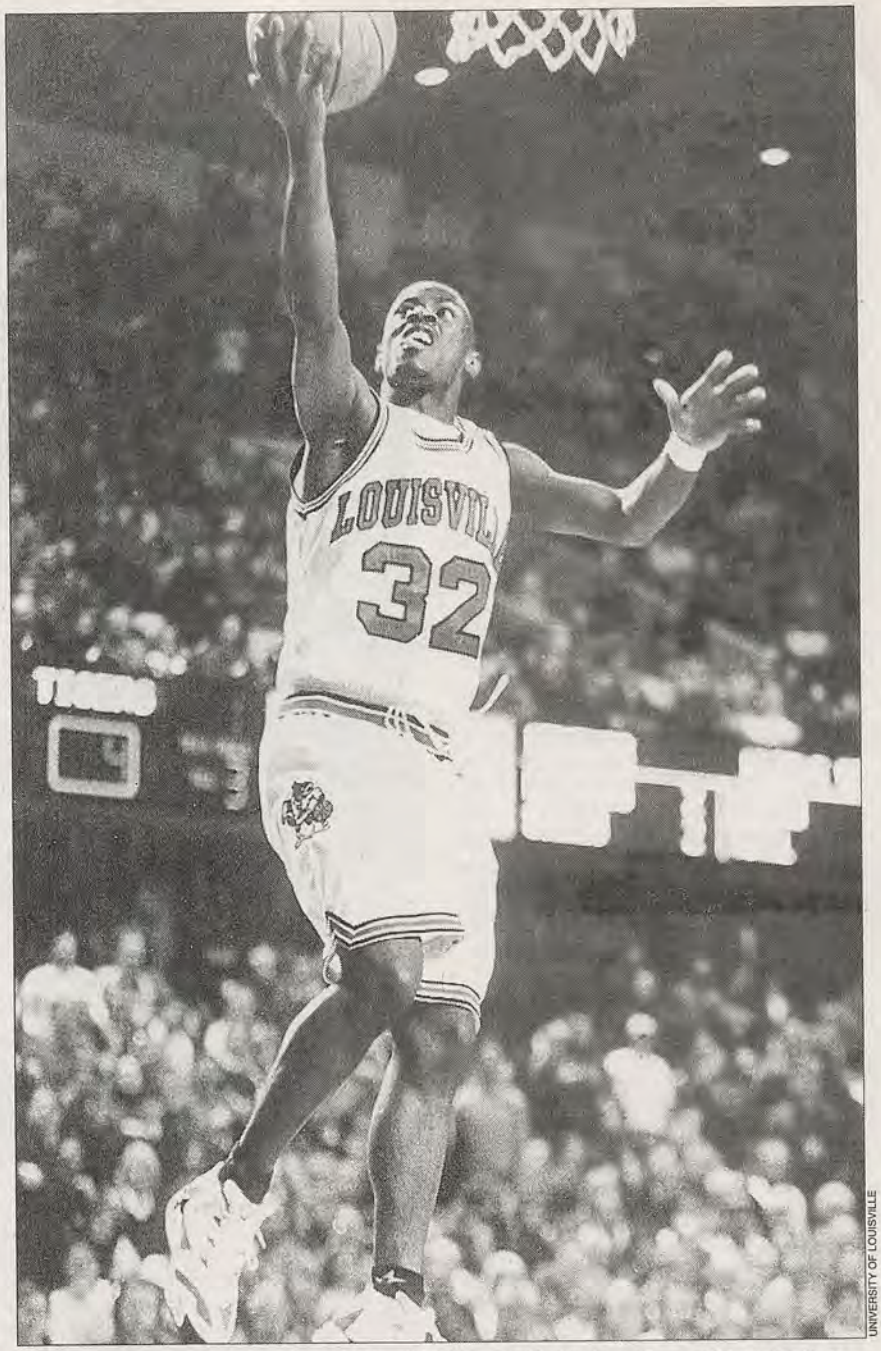
Backcourt: No more Chucky Atkins. Ouch. The Bulls depended heavily on their former point guard for scoring, passing and leadership, and he nearly made them good enough to beat the league's best teams. Brian Lamb will move over from shooting guard to replace him. Lamb is a special athlete with solid playmaking credentials who should do well against the league's many pint-sized point men. Into the shooting guard spot comes Rodney Dean, a JC recruit described by coach Seth Greenberg as a complete player. Brian Taylor could back up both positions; he has a point guard's body, a scorer's mentality and a high jumper's legs.

Key to success: Patience. There isn't enough here to do much more than try to avoid disaster as Greenberg works to reconstruct the program.

Outlook: This season marks the beginning of a long rebuilding process. Greenberg had to hustle up a spring recruiting class—not to improve the team but so there would be one. There were six players in uniform at the end of last season, and the Bulls were looking like they'd start at that point before Greenberg became coach. He is an enthusiastic worker but knows he faces a difficult start.

BULLS DATA

Coach: Seth Greenberg (1st year; 105-70 overall, 6 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-16. Conference USA Red: 2-10/4th.
Starters lost (2): Chucky Atkins, G (19.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.3 spg, 77.3 FT%, 37.3 3-pt%, 38.0 mpg); Donzel Rush, C (9.7 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 31.6 mpg).
Others lost: Billy Adams, G (12.9 mpg; quit team); Eric Kinslow, G (dismissed from team); Pat Lawrence, F (5.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 16.8 mpg); Rickie McClanahan, F (dismissed from team); George Reese, F (dismissed from team); Rich Stephens, C (left team).
Starters returning (3): James Harper, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 10.4 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 45.7 FG%, 32.1 mpg); Luka Jovanovic, F, 6-8/Jr. (3.0 rpg, 70.4 FT%, 21.3 mpg); Brian Lamb, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.5 spg, 70.8 FT%, 34.8 mpg).
Other returnees: David Adler, G, 6-4/Soph.
Top newcomers: Rodney Dean, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Gary Downing, G, 6-4/Fr.; Anddrikk Frazier, G, 5-10/Soph. (transfer/Vanderbilt); Adrian Hillman, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Dan Luczywko, F, 6-9/Fr.; Federico Peruzzo, C, 7-2/Fr.; Brian Taylor, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Tampa. **Home court:** Sun Dome (10,411).



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

Despite a late-season shooting slump, Louisville's Wheat shot better than 45 percent from the floor.

WHITE DIVISION

1. LOUISVILLE

Frontcourt: People have been laughing at Beau Zach Smith for years, and while it wouldn't hurt if he got in shape, it seems silly to look at all his good work as an accident. Smith started 21 games last season, and Louisville had a better record with him as the regular center than Samaki Walker, who became the ninth pick in the NBA draft. Power forward Damion Dantzler looks like an easy mark but has an innate toughness. He could lose his job if sophomore Alex Sanders becomes eligible for the first time. Sanders has been working to make grades for two years; he has the ability to be one of the nation's best power forwards. Swingman Alvin Sims is the heart of the team, causing havoc with his defensive prowess and often making big baskets. He could end up as the starter at off-guard, with touted freshman Nate Johnson the starter at small forward.

Backcourt: Midway through last season, point guard DeJuan Wheat was being discussed as a potential player of the year. Then came a horrific slump that didn't end until the NCAA Tournament. Louisville can win with him shooting badly and failing to score but can't be great until he's fully recovered. It will be extremely difficult to replace off-guard Tick Rogers, the league's defensive player of the year and perhaps the most improved player in the nation last season. A freshman likely will have to play early.

Key to success: With an NCAA probation pending and Walker gone to the NBA, Louisville needs the good news that would result from Sanders' eligibility.

Outlook: This is an NCAA Tournament team, if the NCAA lets the Cardinals play. The team is being investigated for rules violations and could get a postseason ban out of the deal.

CARDINALS DATA

Coach: Denny Crum (587-224, 25 years; 39-20, NCAA Tournament record, won championship in '80, '86).
1995-96 record: 22-12. Conference USA White: 10-4/2nd. Lost to Wake Forest in NCAA Midwest semifinals.
Starters lost (1): Tick Rogers, G (10.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.2 spg, 46.7 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 30 mpg).
Others lost: Brian Kiser, F (8.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 80.6 FT%, 42.8 3-pt%, 25 mpg); Jimmy King, G; Robby Wine, F; Jason Osborne, F/G (didn't play last season; declared for NBA draft); Charlie Taylor, G, (transfer/Middle Tennessee State); Samaki Walker, F/C (15.1 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 2.0 bpg, 59.9 FG%, 30.2 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Starters returning (4): Damion Dantzler, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 24.7 mpg); Alvin Sims, F/G, 6-4/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.6 apg, 2.5 spg, 52.0 FG%, 32.1 3-pt%, 30.0 mpg); Beau Zach Smith, C, 6-8/Sr. (3.0 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 16.8 mpg); DeJuan Wheat, G, 6-0/Sr. (17.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.5 spg, 45.1 FG%, 73.1 FT%, 35.1 3-pt%, 34.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Akridge, G, 6-2/Jr.; Craig Farmer, G,

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6-5/Jr.; B.J. Flynn, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.8 mpg); Eric Johnson, F/G, 6-3/Soph. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Jerry Johnson, G, 6-3/Fr.; Nate Johnson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Jeff McKinley, G, 6-5/Fr.; ; Alex Sanders, F/C, 6-7/Soph. (RS/academics); Tony Williams, F/G, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1994 (Metro).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Louisville, Ky. **Home court:** Freedom Hall (18,865).

2. HOUSTON

Frontcourt: The Cougars lose both starting forwards, Kirk Ford and Tim Moore, but junior Galen Robinson and senior Kenya Capers have the talent to make them easily forgotten. Robinson had a rough time last season because of injuries and academic woes, but he is big, mobile and blessed with a variety of inside moves. Capers was averaging better than 20 points when he was moved to the bench to make room for Moore last December and could challenge that mark as a starter once again. At center is reliable Anthony Knox, who knows how to use his body for defensive purposes. If Adrian Taylor overcomes blood-clotting problems, his extraordinary size (7-2, 360) could become a weapon.
Backcourt: The returning guards don't have stirring skills, which is why coach Alvin Brooks signed JC transfer Shamahn McBride to play the point. He is expected to make the Cougars quicker and better able to run the break. Damon Jones gives the team good size and 3-point shooting ability.
Key to success: It would help if Robinson continues the progress he made during the team's offseason trip to Europe, but McBride's development will be most telling.
Outlook: The team is in position to make a serious statement in its first season of C-USA basketball. The Cougars have a great tradition of basketball success but haven't been to the NCAA Tournament since 1992. This team could wind up back there, or at least in the NIT.

COUGARS DATA

Coach: Alvin Brooks (34-48, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 17-10. Southwest: 11-3/2nd.
Starters lost (3): Kirk Ford, F (14.4 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.0 apg, 50.6 FG%, 78.8 FT%, 33 mpg); Lonzell Gowdy, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 39.3 3-pt%, 29 mpg; left school); Tim Moore, F (17.3 ppg, 10.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 1.6 bpg, 56.3 FG%, 35 mpg).
Others lost: Deondray Carter, G (left school).
Starters returning (2): Damon Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.4 spg, 32 mpg); Anthony Knox, C, 6-8/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 22 mpg).
Other returnees: Ashley Baumgardner, F, 6-8/Soph. (9.0 mpg); Willie Byrd, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 71.2 FT%, 19 mpg); Kenya Capers, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.2 spg, 50.2 FG%, 26 mpg); Galen Robinson, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 19 mpg).
Top newcomers: Vladan Dumic, F, 6-8/Fr.; Shamahn McBride, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Steven Pratta, G, 6-1/Fr.; Adrian Taylor, C, 7-2/Fr. (RS/shoulder).
Last league title: 1992 (tie, Southwest).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Houston. **Home court:** Hofheinz Pavilion (10,132).

3. MEMPHIS

Frontcourt: Small forward Cedric Henderson has wanted to be the primary option in the offense, and now he'll get his chance to prove whether he's the guy who topped 25 points four times or the one who three times didn't even hit two baskets. The Tigers should have former Arkansas starter Sunday Adebayo at power forward by the second semester, providing the physical edge they lacked last season. Adebayo transferred after he was ruled ineligible to continue with the Razorbacks. In the middle will be Michael Brittian, a respected JC recruit. Lean JC transfer Torian Richards could help, and Chad Allen is trying to accelerate his recovery from knee surgery.
Backcourt: Super-quick point guard Chris Garner did not have as strong a year in terms of leadership as a junior but improved skill-wise. He needs to put together the package and have a strong senior season. Off-guard is wide open, with John Gales likely to again serve as a backup and one of four recruits—Harry Allen, Keldrick Bradford, Demond Lyles or freshman Josh Steinthal—winning the job. Allen, who can play all three perimeter positions, is the leading candidate.
Key to success: The recruits must be better than anticipated; coach Larry Finch and his staff insist these players are underrated.
Outlook: This group has less depth, size and talent than any Tigers team this decade and less experience than all but the 1993-94 team that finished 13-16. Any team with Henderson and Adebayo at forward can be dangerous, and Finch often has done his best work with fewer ingredients. A third consecutive NCAA bid is hard to imagine, but Adebayo's decision to enlist makes a winning season likely.

TIGERS DATA

Coach: Larry Finch (204-115, 10 years; 6-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-8. Conference USA White: 11-3/1st. Lost to Drexel in NCAA West first round.
Starters lost (3): Mingo Johnson, G (13.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 4.6 apg, 2.0 spg, 77.1 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 31.7 mpg); Michael Wilson, F (7.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 55.7 FG%, 23.9 mpg); Lorenzen Wright, C (17.4 ppg, **10.4 rpg**, 1.3 spg, 2.0 bpg, 54.2 FG%, 35.3 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: Dorian Davis, G (left school); Rob Forrest, G; James Newman, F (7.5 mpg; left school); Rodney Newsom, F (5.2 ppg, 38.2 3-pt%, 12.4 mpg); Jason Smith, F.
Starters returning (2): Chris Garner, G, 5-10/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.7 apg, 2.4 spg, 45.8 FG%, 36.7 3-pt%, 33.8 mpg); Cedric Henderson, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.5 spg, 49.2 FG%, 39.0 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Chad Allen, F, 6-10/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 51.0 FG%, 14.8 mpg); Larry Finch Jr., G, 5-9/Soph.; Damonn Fuller, F, 6-4/Soph.; John Gales, G, 6-1/Sr. (12.5 mpg); Cody Hopson, F, 6-5/Sr.
Top newcomers: Sunday Adebayo, F, 6-6/Sr. (transfer/Arkansas; eligible second semester); Harry Allen, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Keldrick Bradford, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Michael Brittian, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Demond Lyles, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Torian Richards, F/C, 6-9/Soph. (JC); Josh Steinthal, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1996 (White Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Memphis. **Home court:** The Pyramid (20,142).

4. UNC CHARLOTTE

Frontcourt: DeMarco Johnson was everything last year; there's one thing he'd like not to be this year, and that's a center. Johnson's game dropped off severely when he had to replace injured big man Alexander Kuehl in the middle. If Kuehl can stay healthy, Johnson can go back to being a high-scoring, high-rebounding power forward. JC transfer Galen Young can be kind of wild on the court, but he has enough offensive ability to possibly challenge Cincinnati's Ruben Patterson as the league's dominant recruit.
Backcourt: There weren't many teams in the conference weak at the point last year. This was one. Ponce James was an adequate playmaker, but never special. Replacement Roderick Howard has the advantage of a potentially more talented team. Shooting guard Shanderic Downs is big for his position but struggled to make shots of all sorts. The 49ers still are waiting for Andre Davis, a former Metro Conference rookie of the year, to rediscover his knack for slicing through the defense and scoring. He lost something when he missed time for academic reasons.
Key to success: Johnson, Kuehl and Young have contrasting, perhaps conflicting, styles. Johnson is a finesse power forward. Kuehl is all muscle and positioning. Young is a slasher, using his athletic ability to attack the basket. If they blend well, this could be a terrific front line.
Outlook: There is no disgrace to being the bottom team in this division, but there's no guarantee the 49ers will wind up there. Any one of the four teams can finish first. Coach Melvin Watkins needs improved guard play to make a serious run at the division title, but it's not expecting too much to figure postseason play into the mix.

49ERS DATA

Coach: Melvin Watkins (1st year).
1995-96 record: 14-15. Conference USA White: 6-8/3rd.
Starters lost (2): Ponce James, G (8.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.6 spg, 45.7 FG%, 83.3 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 30.6 mpg); Bobby Kummer, F (5.9 rpg, 28.6 mpg).
Others lost: Raheem Richardson, G (transfer/junior college); Roy Wells, F/G (2.7 rpg, 73.9 FT%, 19.5 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Shanderic Downs, G, 6-5/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 30.5 mpg); DeMarco Johnson, F, 6-8/Jr. (18.1 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1 spg, 49.9 FG%, 33.2 mpg); Alexander Kuehl, C, 7-2/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 19.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Andre Davis, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 18.8 mpg); Jimmy Fields, G, 5-9/Soph.; Tremaine Gardiner, F, 6-6/Soph. (2.5 rpg, 11.3 mpg); Roderick Howard, G, 5-10/Sr. (10.5 ppg, **90.3 FT%**, 36.6 3-pt%, 18.8 mpg); T.J. Tison, F, 6-8/Sr.
Top newcomers: Dimingus Bundy, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Sean Colson, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Versile Shaw, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Ellious Swanigan, F, 6-7/Fr.; Galen Young, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1995 (Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Charlotte, N.C. **Home court:** Dale F. Halton Arena (9,105).

BLUE DIVISION

1. CINCINNATI

Frontcourt: How will touted JC transfer Ruben Patterson mix with Danny Fortson? Each is accustomed to being a go-to player, but coach Bob Huggins claims Patterson is team-oriented and will accept a less-prominent role. Fortson is the best low-post forward in college basketball, occasionally bothered by foul trouble that results from his overzealousness but a devastating scorer along the baseline. Patterson is outrageously talented, the sort of small forward Huggins never has coached. There are several options in the middle, and it may turn out that consistent veteran Jackson Julson splits time with JC recruit Jermaine Thomas, a shot blocker who won't be eligible until the second semester, if then. Bobby Brannen and Rodrick Monroe provide depth and toughness.
Backcourt: Huggins will gamble that JC recruit D'Juan Baker, previously a shooting guard, can adjust to playing the point for the Bearcats. He'll be the biggest point guard in the league and is a talented, steady player. If that doesn't work, recruit Charles Williams is next in line. Huggins is commit-

ted to leaving Damon Flint at shooting guard after a junior season that started strongly before a late fade. Darnell Burton, who also plays small forward, remains the best sixth man in college basketball; he is one of the most difficult perimeter players to defend because of his quick release and lack of concern about pressure.

Keys to success: To challenge for a national title, Cincinnati has to approach the kind of team defense it played in 1991-92 and 1992-93, when opponents loathed facing the Bearcats and their three-quarter-court press. Plus, somebody will need to deliver at point guard.

Outlook: No team in the nation has as much talent. No team has such a varied assortment of great players. Huggins believes his new guys are the sort who are primarily interested in winning games and championships, and they should claim plenty of both.

BEARCATS DATA

Coach: Bob Huggins (166-63, 7 years; 334-135 overall, 15 years; 11-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 28-5. Conference USA Blue: 11-3/1st. Lost to Mississippi State in NCAA Southeast finals.
Starters lost (3): Keith Gregor, F (2.4 rpg, 19.3 mpg); Keith LeGree, G (8.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 5.7 apg, 1.3 spg, 45.0 FG%, 30.8 mpg); Art Long, C (9.0 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 24.6 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Damon Flint, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.4 spg, 32.5 mpg); Danny Fortson, F, 6-7/Jr. (20.1 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 1.2 spg, 53.8 FG%, 75.3 FT%, 27.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Bobby Brannen, F, 6-7/Jr. (2.7 rpg, 11.2 mpg); Darnell Burton, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 41.4 3-pt%, 26.4 mpg); Terrence Davis, 6-2/Sr.; Ryan Fletcher, F, 6-8/Soph.; Jackson Julson, C, 6-9/Jr. (10.1 mpg); Melvin Levett, G, 6-4/Soph.; Rodrick Monroe, F, 6-4/Sr. (2.9 rpg, 10.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: D'Juan Baker, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Kenyon Martin, F/C, 6-8/Fr. (ineligible for at least the first semester); Ruben Patterson, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jermaine Thomas, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC; ineligible for at least the first semester); Charles Williams, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1996 (Blue Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Cincinnati. **Home court:** Shoemaker Center (13,176).

2. MARQUETTE

Frontcourt: Coach Mike Deane expects this to be the year forward Chris Crawford emerges. Crawford has great ball skills for a big player but needs to be a more efficient shooter and pick up the scoring load left by four-year starter Roney Eford. When Deane is looking for scoring, he may lean toward using sophomore Mike Bargen at the other forward spot. If defense is necessary, the choice is clear: senior Faisal Abraham, one of the best inch-for-inch shot blockers in the game. Jarrod Lovette showed in the conference tournament he can take and administer a pounding and be an effective college center. Richard Shaw is not as tough but works the offensive boards and is capable of scoring in bunches.

Backcourt: Aaron Hutchins is the best pure point in the conference; he led the league in assists and led the team in scoring. He is small, elusive and a nightmarish defensive assignment for opponents. His partner offers a nice contrast; shooting guard Anthony Pieper is well-built and has great range. He moves well enough to perform ably in Deane's man-to-man defensive scheme. Deane recruited four guards and needs at least one to develop as a backup.

Key to success: The team needs a more consistent frontcourt scorer, and Crawford has the ability to fill that role.

Outlook: Although perhaps not as quick as last year's team, it seems this bunch could function better on offense as Hutchins develops and Crawford becomes the primary option up front. Good enough to win the other two divisions, the Golden Eagles once again will be stuck behind Cincinnati in the Blue.

GOLDEN EAGLES DATA

Coach: Mike Deane (44-20, 2 years; 234-122 overall, 12 years; 2-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 23-8. Conference USA Blue: 10-4/2nd. Lost to Arkansas in NCAA East second round.
Starters lost (2): Roney Eford, F/G, (12.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 75.3 FT%, 35.1 3-pt%, 32 mpg); Amal McCaskill, C (10.3 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 54.9 FG%, 26 mpg).
Others lost: Zack McCall, F (12 mpg; suspended from team); Dwaine Streater, F/C.
Starters returning (3): Chris Crawford, F, 6-9/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 71.6 FT%, 25 mpg); Aaron Hutchins, G, 5-10/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, **6.9 apg**, 1.4 spg, 84.9 FT%, 37.0 3-pt%, 35 mpg); Anthony Pieper, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 83.1 FT%, 38.3 3-pt%, 32 mpg).
Other returnees: Faisal Abraham, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.0 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 57.9 FG%, 18 mpg); Mike Bargen, G/F, 6-7/Soph.; Abel Joseph, F, 6-9/Jr. (RS); Jarrod Lovette, C, 6-10/Soph.; Richard Shaw, F/C, 6-11/Jr. (2.3 rpg, 9 mpg).
Top newcomers: John Cliff, G, 6-1/Fr.; Alton Mason, G, 6-1/Fr.; Bart Miller, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; John Polonowski, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Marcus West, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/Northeastern Illinois).
Last league title: 1994 (Great Midwest).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** Bradley Center (18,592).

3. SAINT LOUIS

Frontcourt: What frontcourt? It sometimes looks like the Billikens operate with five guards on the floor. Only two players are taller than 6-7, and none is an inside force. Sekeue Barentine is 6-8 and Ryan Luechtefeld 6-8; together, they averaged 2.5 points and 2.9 rebounds last season. None of the recruits is taller than 6-7 Larry Simmons, who weighs just 190. SLU once again will be dependent on the grit of Jeff Harris, the best 6-5 post player around. Tyrone Caswell, a middling reserve in his first season, should take over at power forward, with Virgel Cobbin capable of becoming a prime scorer at small forward.

Backcourt: Since coach Charlie Spoonhour arrived, the Billikens have been guard-oriented, and this is another talented group. Although Carlos McCauley had a fine senior season, all-freshman selection Jamall Walker is ready to assume the point. Shooting guard Corey Frazier struggled to shake the rust after a year of ineligibility, but Spoon hasn't lost faith that Frazier can be an overwhelming scorer. Freshman shooter Troy Robertson and JC recruit Rasheed Malik at least give Saint Louis some size in the back line. Cobbin also could see time at off-guard.

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Despite being undersized at 6-5, Saint Louis' Harris is one of the best rebounders—and one of the toughest players—in the conference.

Key to success: It won't be easy without a bigger body, but the Billikens must find some way to play more oppressive interior defense.

Outlook: The inability to recruit one or two big bodies has kept Saint Louis from blossoming and likely will again. When the shots are falling and foes aren't working feverishly enough to get the ball inside, the Bills can beat most teams in the league. And there are fewer true centers to tower over them this year. This should be another season in which SLU fights to stay on the good side of .500, but with the conference tournament at home, they could wind up with the league's first automatic NCAA bid.

BILLIKENS DATA

Coach: Charlie Spoonhour (74-45, 4 years; 271-126 overall, 13 years; 2-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-14. Conference USA Blue: 4-10/3rd. Lost to Minnesota in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Jamal Johnson, F/C (12.9 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 28.7 mpg); Carlos McCauley, G (8.2 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 3.2 apg, **44.0 3-pt%**, 34.0 mpg).
Others lost: Donnie Adkins, G/F (transfer/JC); J.J. Halliburton, G (transfer/Austin Peay); Paul Nondas, F/C (drafted by Greek army).
Starters returning (3): Virgel Cobbin, F/G, 6-4/Soph. (9.2 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 76.3 FT%, 42.2 3-pt%, 27.8 mpg); Corey Frazier, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.4 spg, 73.7 FT%, 29.4 mpg); Jeff Harris, F/C, 6-5/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 74.5 FT%, 34.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Sekeue Barentine, F/C, 6-8/Sr.; Tyrone Caswell, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (2.2 rpg, 55.2 FG%, 10.9 mpg); Ryan

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Luechtefeld, F, 6-8/Soph. (8.6 mpg); Jamall Walker, G, 6-0/Soph. (73.0 FT%, 36.1 3-pt%, 20.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jeramy Biles, G, 5-10/Fr.; Rasheed Malik, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Troy Robertson, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Larry Simmons, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1957 (Missouri Valley).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: St. Louis. **Home court:** Kiel Center (20,000).

4. DePAUL

Frontcourt: Freshman forwards Ayinde Avery and Ricardo Crumble won't get a lot of time to get acclimated to the college game. The team has few veterans with size and/or experience, so the recruits must play. Power forward Charles Gelatt returns after missing most of last season with academic problems. DeMarcus Gaines is a fine athlete who will need to develop his skills to keep time away from the freshmen. Of the dozen players on the roster, none is listed as a center, a strong indication there are a few pieces missing from this operation. Swingman Marcus Singer will have more of a free hand to fire deep shots, but for the team to improve, he'll have to do more in transition and nearer the goal.
Backcourt: Thomas Cooper started 16 games at small forward and shooting guard without impressing anyone. If freshmen Doc Taylor and Kenny Forges are as good as anticipated, they could quickly cut into Cooper's minutes on the wing. Folks around the program spent the summer hoping a university suspension of point guard Jermaine Watts would be lifted. Without him, there's no one who even remotely resembles a point guard. Cooper may take that job simply because he has been around for a year.
Key to success: Being mentally prepared for that South Florida game. It could be the only league victory for the team that wins.
Outlook: Even with one of the league's best recruiting classes, the news was not all good for DePaul. The school's administration refused to admit Ronnie Fields, the first McDonald's All American to sign with the Blue Demons since Tom Kleinschmidt in 1991. There are enough talented young players and enough frontcourt size for coach Joey Meyer to have something to build on, and he's a patient teacher. He'll need to be.

BLUE DEMONS DATA

Coach: Joey Meyer (228-135, 12 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-18. Conference USA Blue: 2-12/4th.
Starters lost (4): Bryant Bowden, C (15.3 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 34.0 mpg); Brian Currie, F (10.5 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.2 spg, 56.0 FG%, 31.9 mpg); Peter Patton, G (8.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 42.3 3-pt%, 31.0 mpg); Jermaine Watts, G (16.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 5.3 apg, **2.6 spg**, 76.6 FT%, 34.7 mpg; suspended but could return).
Others lost: Juan Gay, G (3.8 ppg, 24.3 mpg; left school); Malik Murray, F.
Starters returning (1): Marcus Singer, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 70.0 FT%, 26.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Thomas Cooper, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (3.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 18.7 mpg); DeMarcus Gaines, F, 6-5/Soph.; Charles Gelatt, F, 6-8/Sr. (2.3 rpg, 17.7 mpg); David Satterwhite, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS/foot).
Top newcomers: Ayinde Avery, F, 6-9/Fr.; Ricardo Crumble, F, 6-8/Fr.; Kenny Forges, G, 6-4/Fr.; Abdou Sylla, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jerome "Doc" Taylor, G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1992 (tie, Great Midwest).
Last NCAA apperance: 1992.
Site: Chicago. **Home courts:** Rosemont Horizon (17,500); United Center (21,500); Alumni Hall (5,300). ◆

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SCOUTING CONFERENCE USA

Ascending: Houston. Merely by trotting over from the Southwest Conference, the Cougars have taken a big step up, but they also have the talent to make more than a token appearance and spent a month getting a head start on the competition by taking a summer tour of Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium. Expect them to be one of the league's best and most entertaining teams.
Descending: Memphis. Actually, the descent began the minute Drexel walked onto the court for the start of last season's NCAA Tournament. It continued through a middling recruiting spring and the announcement that center Lorenzen Wright would enter the NBA draft. If Sunday Adebayo hadn't transferred from Arkansas, the Tigers would have been looking at a last-place finish in their division. This could be the fourth time in the past seven years they miss the NCAAs.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Memphis center Lorenzen Wright's. Although his sophomore year was not what it could have been—he lagged defensively and often was pushed off the block by physical players—he still energized the offense with his ability to run the court. Memphis is counting on JC recruit Michael Brittian of Connors State (Okla.). He'll change the look of the frontcourt, preferring to use his body to create space in the post.
Most underrated player: Saint Louis center/forward Jeff Harris. His willingness to work each night against players a half-foot taller (and outwork most of them) earns Harris the admiration of all who watch the Billikens play. At least those who pay attention.
Most overrated player: Tulane forward Jerald Honeycutt. Does a forward who averages nearly four turnovers a game belong on the all-league team?
Coach on the hot seat: Memphis' Larry Finch. He was grilled throughout the offseason by talk-show callers angry about the Drexel loss and eager to speculate he'll be unable to land any of the city's excellent high school seniors. Finch could use a surprising season.
Best bets: Louisville's NCAA case will conclude with the Cardinals booted from the tournament for one season and stripped of two scholarships. ... New Louisville assistant Jerry Eaves will get the Cardinals back into the recruiting mainstream (and maybe even back into the classroom). ... Cincinnati Coach Bob Huggins will complain about his team's intensity in practice about the time the Bearcats reach 15-0. ... The league tournament at the Kiel Center in St. Louis will be a smashing success. ... Danny Fortson will foul out at least once on five charging calls. ... There will be a lot of empty seats for DePaul games at the Rosemont Horizon. ... Marquette will beat Memphis for the sixth time in the past seven games. ... Cincinnati will break the hex UAB holds on the Bearcats, but it'll be a struggle for the first 30 minutes. ... Some league members will wish the conference had been successful at evicting Louisville. ... At Memphis and South Florida, two courts becoming infamous for their hostile crowds, coaches will complain about obscene language being used by members of the audience. Coaches of the visiting teams may be offended, as well.
Odds & Ends: If you hear someone say 250-pound UAB center James Bristow is built like a tight end, it's not really a cliche. He joined the Blazers football program this fall, playing defensive end. ... UNC Charlotte moves into a new home this season, the 9,105-seat Dale F. Halton Arena. ... C-USA has two coaches who've coached in the Final Four (Louisville's Denny Crum and Cincinnati's Bob Huggins) and two who've played in the Final Four (Larry Finch of Memphis and Melvin Watkins of UNC Charlotte) ... Two of the league's 12 coaches had to follow the toughest acts imaginable: their fathers. Murry Bartow is taking over for his father Gene, the only coach UAB has ever known. Joey Meyer succeeded his father, Ray. Together, the dads won 1,371 games and made 25 NCAA Tournament appearances. ... Cincinnati is one of three teams to reach the NCAA's Elite Eight three times in the past five seasons; the others are Kentucky and Michigan. The Bearcats and Louisville are among 11 programs to reach the Sweet 16 three times in the past five seasons. ... Louisville's first victory will be No. 1,300 in the school's history. ... Memphis had a 34-game home-court winning streak ended by Marquette in the C-USA tournament semifinals, but the Tigers still have not lost a regular-season home game since February 1994. ... Marquette has ranked among the nation's top three in field-goal defense for four consecutive years. ... Of the 13 players on the Southern Mississippi roster, 10 are Mississippians. ◆

—MIKE DECOURCY

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Cincinnati (F Ruben Patterson). No one worked the junior college ranks better. The Bearcats grabbing two potential starters in Patterson and guard D'Juan Baker and a solid center in Jermaine Thomas. Center Kenyon Martin of Dallas is a spectacular athlete who knows how to play in the low post.
2. DePaul (F Ricardo Crumble).
3. UNC Charlotte (F Galen Young).
4. Houston (G Shamahn McBride).
5. Louisville (F Nate Johnson).
6. Tulane (F/G Sterling Davis).
7. Memphis (C Michael Brittian).
8. Marquette (G Marcus West).
9. UAB (F Hal Lewis).
10. South Florida (G Rodney Dean).
11. Saint Louis (G/F Troy Robertson)

PACIFIC-10

Conference Rank: 8

By Jon Wilner

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. UCLA
2. STANFORD
3. ARIZONA
4. OREGON
5. WASHINGTON
6. CALIFORNIA
7. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
8. WASHINGTON STATE
9. OREGON STATE
10. ARIZONA STATE

ALL-PACIFIC-10 TEAM

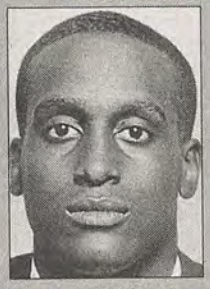
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	TOBY BAILEY, UCLA	6-5/205	Jr.
F	J.R. HENDERSON, UCLA	6-9/223	Jr.
G	BREVIN KNIGHT, Stanford	5-10/173	Sr.
C	JELANI McCOY, UCLA	6-9/220	Soph.
C	TIM YOUNG, Stanford	7-1/245	Soph.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	STAIS BOSEMAN, USC	6-4/200	Sr.
G/F	ISAAC FONTAINE, Washington St.	6-3/215	Sr.
G/F	CHARLES O'BANNON, UCLA	6-5/209	Sr.
F	MARK SANFORD, Washington	6-8/200	Jr.
G	MILES SIMON, Arizona	6-5/199	Jr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



BREVIN KNIGHT
G, Stanford

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

MIKE BIBBY, G, Arizona

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Isaac Fontaine, Washington State.

Best rebounder: Jaha Wilson, Southern California.

Best playmaker: Brevin Knight, Stanford.

Best defender: Stais Boseman, Southern California.

Best leaper: Charles O'Bannon, UCLA.

Best under 6 foot: Brevin Knight, Stanford.

Best over 7 foot: Tim Young, Stanford.

Most versatile: J.R. Henderson, UCLA.

Most flamboyant: Charles O'Bannon, UCLA.

Best NBA prospect: Jelani McCoy, UCLA.

UCLA

Bailey, a junior guard, is one of five returning starters for the Bruins, who are the class of the league.

1. UCLA

Frontcourt: It's perhaps the best in the nation with swingman Charles O'Bannon, power forward J.R. Henderson and center Jelani McCoy. When on their game, this trio has no weaknesses. McCoy, a Marcus Camby-like shot blocker with the athletic skills of a guard, emerged as one of the best freshmen in the country last year. Henderson is the Bruins' most skilled player and may serve as the backup point guard. The pressure is on O'Bannon, a senior, with NBA scouts watching his every move. The UCLA coaches are hoping O'Bannon can provide some much-needed maturity for what was a leaderless team.

Backcourt: The lone question is at point guard, where senior Cameron Dollar had an injury-plagued and inconsistent junior season. His scoring is secondary to floor leadership. (UCLA was last in the Pac-10 in turnover margin last year.) Gifted off-guard Toby Bailey is the top 3-point threat, although his percentages tailed in the second half of last season. Kris Johnson, who started after Dollar got hurt, has an unlimited amount of moves in the low post and is one of the best sixth men in the country.

Key to success: It starts and ends with Dollar. He must have the type of season Reggie Geary had for Arizona last year: tenacious defense, sound decision-making, leadership and enough jumpers to keep defenses honest. The Bruins don't have much depth. Beyond the top six, the only proven player is former walk-on Bob Myers.

Outlook: UCLA will start the season in everyone's top 10, perhaps the top five. The mistakes and inconsistency that defined the Bruins' 1995-96 season—especially in the NCAA Tournament loss to Princeton—will not be as readily forgiven this year. Once again, the pressure is on coach Jim Harrick and his merry band of future first-rounders. Fair or not, Bruins fans expect to return to the RCA Dome, site of the Princeton debacle and home of the 1997 Final Four.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

BRUINS DATA

Coach: Jim Harrick (191-63, 8 years; 358-160 overall, 17 years; 14-11 NCAA Tournament record; won NCAA title in '95).
1995-96 record: 23-8. Pac-10: 16-2/1st. Lost to Princeton in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Kevin Dempsey, F/G (46.9 FG%, 46.4 3-pt%, 10.7 mpg); omm'A Givens, C (2.3 rpg, 51.1 FG%, 86.2 FT%, 11.6 mpg; transfer/Pepperdine); Ike Nwanko, C (transfer/Long Beach State).
Starters returning (5): Toby Bailey, G, 6-5/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 3.4 apg, 45.8 FG%, 39.5 3-pt%, 34.3 mpg); J.R. Henderson, F, 6-9/Jr. (14.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.1 spg, 57.2 FG%, 31.1 mpg); Kris Johnson, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (12.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 56.9 FG%, 76.4 FT%, 26.4 mpg); Jelani McCoy, C, 6-9/Soph. (10.2 ppg, 6.9 rpg, **3.3 bpg, 67.6 FG%**, 29.7 mpg); Charles O'Bannon, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.1 spg,

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

52.7 FG%, 76.7 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 31.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Cameron Dollar, G, 5-11/Sr. (4.1 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.7 spg, 26.4 mpg); Brandon Loyd, G, 5-10/Soph.; Bob Myers, F, 6-6/Sr.; Harold Sylvester, G, 5-10/Jr.
Top newcomers: Rico Hines, G/F, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1988.
Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Pauley Pavilion (12,819).

2. STANFORD

Frontcourt: The Cardinal fortunes depend on the performance of one man—sophomore center Tim Young, who missed all but five games last year with a bulging disk in his back. Young is a 7-1 lefty with decent athletic ability. He averaged 12.3 points and 8.6 rebounds two years ago and, if healthy, will be the primary concern of every defense he faces. Double-teams will be common. Pete Van Elswyk, a transfer from South Carolina, joins sophomore Mark Seaton and freshman Mark Madsen as powerful support for Young. Sophomore Peter Sauer must ease the loss of small forward Andy Poppink.
Backcourt: At the most important position on the floor, Stanford has one of the best in the country. Brevin Knight's value lies in his ability to perform all the point guard functions at a high level: He's a terrific defender, an impeccable decision-maker and an offensive force. He can penetrate or pop a 3-pointer. His longtime backcourt companion, Dion Cross, is gone, but watch for Kris Weems to emerge as a solid shooting guard. Sophomore Arthur Lee also will see more time.
Keys to success: Young's health. The Cardinal say he's ready, but rarely do players return immediately to past form after missing a season. In addition, are Stanford's well-regarded sophomores (Weems, Sauer, Seaton) ready to make the switch from role players to dependable starters?
Outlook: Had Young stayed healthy last year, the Cardinal would have challenged UCLA for the conference title. Stanford probably isn't ready to do that this season because of the departures of Cross and Poppink and the unproven sophomores. But coach Mike Montgomery's team should build on its strong '96 finish, which included a road win at Arizona and a five-point loss to Massachusetts in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Stanford lacks the athleticism needed for a Final Four berth, but with Knight and Young, a Sweet 16 finish isn't unreasonable.

CARDINAL DATA

Coach: Mike Montgomery (182-120, 10 years; 336-197 overall, 18 years; 2-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-9. Pac-10: 12-6/3rd. Lost to Massachusetts in NCAA East second round.
Starters lost (4): Darren Allaway, F (5.0 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 70.4 FT%, 24.5 mpg); Dion Cross, G (14.5 ppg, 2.0 rpg, **92.0 FT%**, 40.1 3-pt%, 32.1 mpg); David Harbour, G (9.2 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 27.5 mpg); Andy Poppink, F (14.0 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 48.3 FG%, 80.4 FT%, 30.8 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (1): Brevin Knight, G, 5-10/Sr. (15.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, **7.3 apg**, **2.1 spg**, 84.8 FT%, 31.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Rich Jackson, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.1 mpg); Arthur Lee, G, 6-0/Soph.; Peter Sauer, F, 6-8/Soph. (3.3 rpg, 11.3 mpg); Mark Seaton, F, 6-9/Soph. (3.2 rpg, 60.5 FG%, 14.4 mpg); Mark Thompson, G, 6-1/Jr.; Kamba Tshionyi, G, 6-2/Jr.; Kris Weems, G, 6-3/Soph.; Karl Wente, F, 6-7/Soph.; Tim Young, C, 7-1/Soph. (RS/back).
Top newcomers: Mark Madsen, F, 6-9/Fr.; Ryan Mendez, F/G, 6-7/Fr.; Andy McClelland, C, 6-10/Fr. (RS/knee); David Moseley, G, 6-4/Fr.; Pete Van Elswyk, F, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/South Carolina).
Last league title: 1963 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Palo Alto, Calif. **Home court:** Maples Pavilion (7,500).

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Expect Arizona's Simon to be even more effective because of the arrival of Mike Bibby.

3. ARIZONA

Frontcourt: The Wildcats have less firepower on the front line than perhaps at any time in coach Lute Olson's 14-year tenure. Joseph Blair, Ben Davis and Corey Williams are gone, with Blair's departure hastened by academic woes. At center, Arizona will rely on unknowns A.J. Bramlett and Donnell Harris. JC recruit Bennett Davison should step in at power forward, although he's thin and will be susceptible against the Pac-10's burliest front lines. Freshman Eugene Edgerson could help. Another freshman, Stephen Jackson, would have been a huge plus, but he isn't eligible. Small forward Michael Dickerson has all the offensive skills.
Backcourt: It is very good. Freshman Mike Bibby takes over at point the day practice begins. He's a scorer and passer supreme, which means he should mesh perfectly with talented wing men Dickerson and Miles Simon. Like Dickerson, Simon is highly skilled; he's a solid jump shooter who can break down defenses off the dribble. Look for Olson to use the perimeter-oriented system he deployed with the Reeves-Stoudamire-Geary trio during the 1994 Final Four run.
Key to success: Olson, a master tactician, can devise a scheme to hide one weakness (i.e., center), but not two. That means Davison must produce at power forward. The Wildcats may suffer the same underclass-itis that afflicted UCLA last season. With no seniors, Simon and Dickerson are the likely candidates to assume leadership roles. Both battled immaturity and inconsistency last year.
Outlook: It has been written before but is worth repeating: Olson's teams usually perform best when it's least expected. The departure of five seniors, combined with overall inexperience and a hole at center, means little will be expected. With Bibby, Simon and Dickerson, the Wildcats will be very difficult to guard on the perimeter; any help from the front line is a bonus. This team looks to be a year away from a deep NCAA Tournament run.

WILDCATS DATA

Coach: Lute Olson (316-101, 13 years; 508-193 overall, 23 years; 22-18 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 26-7. Pac-10: 13-5/2nd. Lost to Kansas in West semifinals.
Starters lost (4): Ben Davis, F/C (14.2 ppg, **9.5 rpg**, 54.6 FG%, 31.5 mpg); Reggie Geary, G (9.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 7.0 apg, 2.0 spg, 73.3 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 33.0 mpg); Joe McLean, F (9.3 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 42.0 3-pt%, 23.0 mpg); Corey Williams, F (11.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.2 spg, 51.1 FG%, 38.9 3-pt%, 26.0 mpg).
Others lost: Joseph Blair, C (14.7 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 2 apg, 1 spg, 1 bpg, 69.0 FG%, 30.5 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Miles Simon, G, 6-5/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.1 apg, 1.0 spg, 76.4 FT%, 32.0 mpg).
Other returnees: A.J. Bramlett, C/F, 6-11/Soph. (8.4 mpg); Michael Dickerson, F, 6-5/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 73.8 FT%, 23.0 mpg); Kelvin Eafon, G, 6-1/Jr.; Donnell Harris, C/F, 6-11/Soph.; Jason Terry, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Mike Bibby, G, 6-2/Fr.; Bennett Davison, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Eugene Edgerson, F, 6-8/Fr.; Quynn Tebbs, G, 6-3/Fr.; Justin Wessel, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1984.
Site: Tucson, Ariz. **Home court:** McKale Center (14,428).

4. OREGON

Frontcourt: There are bodies galore, and experienced ones at that. Forward/centers Kyle Milling and Rob Ramaker combined for 18.2 points and 14.4 rebounds last season, and they gave the Ducks one of the Pac-10's most physical front lines. They won't jump over or blow by defenders, but coach Jerry Green's system has a knack for getting them the ball in scoring position. Oregon hopes this is the season that 7-footer Michael Carson contributes consistently.
Backcourt: Kenya Wilkins is a half-notch below Brevin Knight as a point guard. He's a solid penetrator and 36 percent 3-point shooter, but at 160 pounds, he's also vulnerable against bigger guards. Standing next to him in the Ducks' three-guard attack—usually beyond the 3-point line—are shooters Jamal Lawrence and Terik Brown, son of Downtown Freddie Brown. They have limitless range, especially Brown. Also look for a contribution from freshman Tyron Manlove, the state's best prep player last year and a product of the same high school that produced Damon Stoudamire. Junior Jamar Curry is steady.
Keys to success: Ramaker must recover from two offseason knee surgeries. Will Wilkins duplicate his solid play as a junior, or revert to the inconsistency of his sophomore season? Brown and Lawrence must be consistent from the perimeter to extend defenses and give Milling and Ramaker room to move underneath.
Outlook: Every starter and primary reserve returns from a 16-13 team that was shunned by the NIT. The Ducks' problem was a six-game losing streak in midseason. While heavily experienced, they lack the great player who can break down defenses and halt losing streaks before they begin. Instead, they'll rely on Green's balanced, motion offense and hope it registers

enough wins to merit NCAA consideration. A tough non-league schedule that includes Temple, Fresno State and Wisconsin-Green Bay will help prepare the Ducks.

DUCKS DATA

Coach: Jerry Green (55-59, 4 years; 205-167 overall, 13 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-13. Pac-10: 9-9/T5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Brian Williams, G.
Starters returning (5): Jamar Curry, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1 spg, 51.0 FG%); Jamal Lawrence, G, 6-2/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 39.8 3-pt%, 26.6 mpg); Kyle Milling, F/C, 6-9, Sr. (12.2 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 71.6 FT%, 32.1 mpg); Rob Ramaker, F/C, 6-10, Sr. (6.0 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1 spg, 51.9 FG%, 34.6 3-pt%, 23.5 mpg); Kenya Wilkins, G, 5-10/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 5.9 apg, **2.1 spg**, 84.6 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 34.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Terik Brown, G, 6-1/Soph. (8.6 ppg, 71.1 FT%, 17.9 mpg); Michael Carson, C, 7-0/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 49.3 FG%, 12.9 mpg); A.D. Smith, F, 6-8/Soph. (2.2 rpg, 49.2 FG%, 9.2 mpg); Andre Larry, F, 6-9/Soph.; Jonathan Nelson, F/C, 6-8/Soph.; Donte Quinine, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (7.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tyron Manlove, G, 6-4/Fr.; Mike McShane, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1945 (Pac-10 North).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Eugene, Ore. **Home court:** McArthur Court (9,738).

5. WASHINGTON

Frontcourt: The names aren't as familiar as O'Bannon, McCoy or Young, but they're solid players nonetheless. Hulking 7-foot sophomore Todd MacCulloch, a "Big Country" Reeves lookalike, is one of the conference's most intimidating and effective centers. Patrick Femerling, another 7-footer, will be a tough matchup for opposing power forwards if coach Bob Bender employs a twin-towers lineup. But the class of the frontcourt is slender forward Mark Sanford, one of the best scorers in the conference. His decision to withdraw his name from the NBA draft catapulted the Huskies from second-division finisher to first. Jason Hartman is a 3-point threat (41.4 percent) at small forward.

Backcourt: The departures of point guard Jason Hamilton and wing man Bryant Boston leave major questions, and top recruit Quincy Wilder failed to qualify. The trio of Jamie Booker, Hartman and Donald Watts should provide good production at off-guard/small forward, but what of the point? Look for JC transfer Jan Wooten to run the club. No one knows how effective he'll be. Chris Thompson may figure in the mix.

Key to success: It starts on the perimeter. The talented frontcourt will be rendered ineffective if there's no one to get the ball into the low post—or to hit enough jump shots to keep defenses honest, as MacCulloch and Femerling aren't quite skilled enough to create their own shots against collapsing defenses. The Huskies shot 34.2 percent from 3-point range last year, seventh in the conference.

Outlook: With a postseason NIT appearance last year, Bender's textbook rebuilding job is almost complete. The final step: consistent upper-division finishes in the conference and regular NCAA appearances. To do it, his team must avoid the second-half stumbles of recent seasons. Last year, for instance, the Huskies lost seven of nine Pac-10 games after a stunning win at Arizona on February 1.

HUSKIES DATA

Coach: Bob Bender (30-52, 3 years; 90-109 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-12. Pac-10: 9-9/T5th. Lost to Michigan State in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Bryant Boston, G (12.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.0 spg, 1.5 spg, 31.9 mpg); Jason Hamilton, G (7.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.7 apg, **2.1 spg**, 70.5 FT%, 46.8 3-pt%, 31.7 mpg).
Others lost: Mike Amos, C (2.4 rpg, 12.1 mpg); Alex Lopez, C (6.8 mpg); Andy Roberson, G.
Starters returning (3): Jamie Booker, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.9 spg, 30.8 mpg); Todd MacCulloch, C, 7-0/Soph. (8.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 67.5 FG%, 15.0 mpg); Mark Sanford, F, 6-8/Jr. (16.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.4 spg, 46.0 FG%, 28.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Patrick Femerling, C, 7-0/Soph. (2.7 rpg, 12.0 mpg); Jason Hartman,G/ F, 6-6/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 76.7 FT%, 41.4 3-pt%, 18.0 mpg); Chris Thompson, G, 6-1/Sr.; Donald Watts, G, 6-3/Soph. (16.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dan Claridge, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Thalo Green, F, 6-7/Fr.; Deon Luton, G, 6-3/Fr.; Chris Walcott, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Jan Wooten, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Seattle. **Home court:** Hec Edmundson Pavilion (7,900).

6. CALIFORNIA

Frontcourt: Few teams in the country were hit as hard by player defections as this one. The departures of forwards Shareef Abdur-Rahim (NBA) and Tremaine Fowlkes (transfer) leave role players where stars once roamed. Tony Gonzalez is a powerful specimen whose best sport is football (he's one of the top tight ends in the nation). Center Michael Stewart, who also considered leaving Cal, is a decent defender but not much of an offensive threat. Oft-injured forward Alfred Grigsby received a sixth year of eligibility from the NCAA, but who knows how effective he'll be.

Backcourt: With the transfer of Jelani Gardner (to Pepperdine), the Bears will rely on four guards to fill three perimeter positions. Point men Anwar McQueen and Prentice McGruder are steady with the ball, but neither makes defenses fret. The team leader is off-guard Randy Duck, one of the most underrated players in the league. For points, there's Ed Gray, a gifted scorer who has shown little regard for the other aspects of the game.

Keys to success: The stunning late-August resignation of coach Todd Bozeman makes this Team Turmoil. In addition, players who filled specific roles in previous years will be asked to assume major responsibilities. Are they ready? Will McQueen and Duck elevate their offensive games? Will Gray, the league's 1996 newcomer of the year, score consistently? Will the team come together for the new coach?

Outlook: In contrast to previous Cal teams dominated by freshmen and sophomores, the Bears have six seniors, four of whom will start. But there isn't superior talent, and only a weak second division will prevent the Bears from an eighth- or ninth-place finish.

BEARS DATA

Coach: To be announced.
1995-96 record: 17-11. Pac-10: 11-7/4th. Lost to Iowa State in NCAA Midwest first round.
Starters lost (2): Shareef Abdur-Rahim, F (**21.1 ppg**, 8.4 rpg, 1.9 spg, 1.3 bpg, 51.8 FG%, 38.1 3-pt%, 34.7 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Jelani Gardner, G (9.2 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.0 spg, 73.3 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 24 mpg; transfer/Pepperdine).
Others lost: Tremaine Fowlkes, F (12.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 27 mpg; transfer/Fresno State).
Starters returning (2): Prentice McGruder, G, 6-3/Sr. (2.0 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 75.7 FT%, 17.1 mpg); Michael Stewart, F/C, 6-10/Sr. (4.3 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 53.8 FG%, 15.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Randy Duck, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 76.9 FT%, 38.6 3-pt%, 30.0 mpg); Tony Gonzalez, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 19.1 mpg); Ed Gray, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.5 spg, 79.1 FT%, 25.1 mpg); Alfred Grigsby, F, 6-8/Sr. (RS/back); Kenyon Jones, C, 6-10/Soph. (2.4 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 9.3 mpg); Sean Marks, C, 6-10/Jr. (2.0 rpg, 7.7 mpg); Anwar McQueen, G, 6-1/Sr. (18.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Sean Jackson, F/G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1960.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Berkeley, Calif. **Home court:** Harmon Arena (6,578).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Boseman generally toils in obscurity for a mediocre USC team, but he is one of the better players on the West Coast.

7. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Frontcourt: Addition by subtraction is the story here, as Avondre Jones' decision to pursue a music career after academic shortcomings should improve teamwork dramatically. For all his physical skills, Jones often clogged the offensive flow with bad shots and bad passes; his constant foul trouble made cohesiveness impossible. Center David Crouse can't match Jones' ability, but he's a team player who works hard and keeps the offense fluid. Maurice Strong's transfer won't help, but at least Jaha Wilson, the hardest-working player in the league, is back for his final season. Kentucky transfer Rodrick Rhodes, who has one year of eligibility, should provide some scoring punch at small forward. Rhodes, who didn't live up to his billing with the Wildcats, also will play off-guard.

Backcourt: As long as Stais Boseman is on the court, the Trojans won't be embarrassed on the perimeter. Boseman is the league's

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

best defender and a consistent scoring threat. At 6-4, he has rare athletic skills, is intimidated by no one and handles the ball well enough to run the offense when necessary. He'll get scoring help from Rhodes and freshman Shannon Swillis.

Key to success: Much of the Trojans' fate depends on whether athletic director Mike Garrett interferes with Henry Bibby's coaching. Garrett has succeeded in running the program into the ground, with three coaches in two years and the myriad roster changes that have resulted. His handling of the Charlie Parker situation was at best insensitive, and at worst deplorable.

Outlook: The ingredients for a respectable team are here. With Boseman, Wilson, Crouse and Rhodes, the Trojans have a nice core. But no one is quite sure if Bibby can coach. He has just three returning lettermen, a slew of JC transfers and a porous defense.

TROJANS DATA

Coach: Henry Bibby (0-9, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 11-19. Pac-10: 4-14/9th.
Starters lost (3): Avondre Jones, C (10.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.8 bpg, 58.1 FG%, 24.4 mpg; academically ineligible); Brandon Martin, G (14.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 45.9 FG%, 84.3 FT%, 38.0 3-pt%, 33.7 mpg); Cameron Murray, G (7.4 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 27.5 mpg; transfer/Louisville).
Others lost: Tremayne Anchrum, F; Damion Dawson, G (10.6 mpg; left school); Tyson Reuter, G (87.5 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 16.5 mpg); Maurice Strong, F (3.0 rpg, 12.5 mpg; transfer/Western Kentucky).
Starters returning (2): Stais Boseman, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.9 spg, 71.4 FT%, 34.0 mpg); Jaha Wilson, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 30.3 mpg).
Other returnees: David Crouse, C, 6-11/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 49.7 FG%, 20.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Larry Ayuso, G, 6-2/Soph. (JC); Rodrick Rhodes, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (transfer/Kentucky); Ramy Shoukry, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Ken Sims, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Shannon Swillis, F/G, 6-6/Fr.; Jarvis Turner, F, 6-8/Fr.; Danny Walker, G, 6-1/Fr.; Anthony White, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Gary Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1985 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** L.A. Memorial Sports Arena (15,509).

8. WASHINGTON STATE

Frontcourt: Mark Hendrickson, the Cougars' stabilizing force and best player over the past four years, is gone. And there's no one equipped to replace him. Carlos Daniel and Tavares Mack are the most experienced big men, but both are foul-prone. Mack, especially, is limited offensively, but 10-12 points per game from Daniel isn't unrealistic. Freshman Chris Crosby will have plenty of opportunity to show his stuff as part of a probable three-man frontcourt rotation.

Backcourt: The Cougars have one of the best players in the league in off-guard Isaac Fontaine. The problem is at point guard. Three-year starter Donminic Ellison, plagued by academic problems and marijuana-possession charges, left school by mutual agreement with coach Kevin Eastman and transferred to New Mexico State. His departure leaves a massive void. Potential replacements include freshman Blake Pengelly, senior Kareem Jackson and 6-7 Rodrigo de la Fuente, a native of Madrid, Spain, who arrives via the JC ranks.

Keys to success: Everything depends on the newcomers: Pengelly and de la Fuente at point, Crosby underneath and freshman Beau Archibald on the wing. Someone must emerge as a secondary scorer to

Ascending: Washington. The disastrous Lynn Nance era is a distant memory. Bob Bender has recruited size and talent and restored enthusiasm to the program. With just two seniors on the 1996-97 roster, the Huskies' best years are ahead.

Descending: Arizona State. Bill Frieder once ran one of the top programs in the conference, but he hasn't recruited a good big man in five years. He had plenty of playing time to offer the prep class of '96, but he failed to land a single big-name player. (His best recruit, Ryan McDermott, opted for pro baseball.) The Sun Devils won 24 games in 1994-95; they won 11 in '95-96 and will be hard-pressed to match that total this year.

Biggest sneakers to fill: It's a tie between Cal forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim's and Arizona forward/center Ben Davis'. Abdur-Rahim had unmatched numbers and was conference player of the year as a freshman. Tony Gonzalez and Michael Stewart can't begin to replace him. No player was as valuable to his team as Davis was to Arizona, especially after Joseph Blair was lost to academic problems. The Wildcats will rely on unproven A.J. Bramlett and Donnell Harris in the middle.

Most underrated player: USC forward Jaha Wilson. He annually ranks among the league's top rebounders despite being only 6-5. His scoring range has improved steadily, yet he doesn't frown when the shots go to other players. And no one works harder.

Most overrated player: Washington forward Mark Sanford. He can score, but he failed to lift the Huskies to another level last year. His assist-to-turnover ratio was almost 1-3, and he took a lot of bad shots (and made just 46 percent of those, low for a combination forward playing near the basket). And Sanford is no standout defensively, either.

Coach on the hot seat: USC's Henry Bibby. Athletic director Mike Garrett fired Charlie Parker just when the Trojans were gearing up for an NIT run last year. Loyal followers—the few there are—won't have much patience if the early season losses mount. Of course, if life was fair, this category would be called "athletic director on the hot seat."

Best bets: Only three Pac-10 teams (UCLA, Arizona and Stanford) will receive NCAA Tournament bids. Three others (Oregon, Washington and Cal) could get calls from the NIT. ... Stanford's Brevin Knight will get a triple-double (points, assists, steals) in at least one game this season. ... Cal's Ed Gray will lead the league in shots per minute. ... UCLA underclassmen Toby Bailey, J.R. Henderson and Jelani McCoy will leave school after the season if they are considered first-round picks. ... John Wooden will not attend the Wooden Classic on December 7. (It's the same day as UCLA-Kansas at Pauley Pavilion.)

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Arizona (G Mike Bibby). Bibby's impact in this league will be immediate. Forward Eugene Edgerson also should make an impact this season.
2. Oregon State (F Terrill Woods).
3. Stanford (F Mark Madsen).
4. Washington State (F Chris Crosby).
5. USC (F Jarvis Turner).
6. California (F/G Sean Jackson).
7. Oregon (G Tyron Manlove).
8. Washington (G Jan Wooten).
9. UCLA (G/F Rico Hines).
10. Arizona State (G Eddie House).

Odds and ends: Seven of the league's top 10 scorers are back, as are six of the top 10 in assists and steals. ... Oregon State JC transfer Chris Rose is a 26-year-old former Marine who served six months in Kuwait and was part of Operation Desert Storm. ... Jim Harrick has won 20 games in each of his first eight years at UCLA. Only two other coaches in NCAA history have done that at the same school: Louisville's Denny Crum and N.C. State's Everett Case. ... Father meets son on January 16 when Arizona freshman Mike Bibby faces USC, coached by his father, Henry. Mike's parents are divorced and he isn't close to his father. ... Washington's best recruit, guard Quincy Wilder, did not qualify academically. Neither did Oregon State's best recruit, forward Corey Benjamin, nor Arizona's, forward Stephen Jackson. One Oregon State recruit who did qualify, freshman guard J.B. Bickerstaff, is the son of Bernie Bicker-staff, who is the Denver Nuggets' president/G.M./coach. The Beavers also inked 6-10 Nate Knight, the brother of former UConn post player Travis and BYU big man Shane. ... USC guard Stais Boseman attended the same high school (Morningside High in Inglewood, Calif.) that produced NBA pros Elden Campbell and Byron Scott and U.S. Olympian Lisa Leslie. Boseman was the first athlete in school history to start four consecutive years in football and basketball. ... In May, the NCAA announced it would investigate Cal for violations committed during its recruitment of guard Jelani Gardner, who since has transferred to Pepperdine. ... You could form a good team with players who left Pac-10 programs (for various reasons) since the end of last season: USC center Avondre Jones, UCLA center omm'A Givens, Cal forwards Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Tremaine Fowlkes and guard Gardner and Washington State guard Donminic Ellison. In fact, that team would challenge for a post-season bid. ... UCLA is the favorite to win its third consecutive outright conference crown. Only one team has done that since the conference's 1978 expansion to 10 teams: coach Ralph Miller's Charlie Sitton/Lester Conner/A.C. Green-led Oregon State Beavers, from 1980-82. ◆

—JON WILNER

relieve defensive pressure on Fontaine. If he feels comfortable with his depth, Eastman may try to create easy baskets with pressure defense. One sign of trouble: Fontaine spending time at point guard.

Outlook: It's not as bright as in recent years in the Palouse. Fontaine must carry the scoring load, and all indications are that he's ready for the challenge. An offseason running program—he hates running—helped him lose 10 pounds and, Eastman hopes, regain the superb first step he had as a sophomore. But even 25 points a game from Fontaine may not be enough for a winning season.

COUGARS DATA

Coach: Kevin Eastman (35-24, 2 years; 159-99 overall, 9 years).
1995-96 record: 17-12. Pac-10: 8-10/7th. Lost to Nebraska in NIT second round.
Starters lost (3): Shamon Antrum, G (12.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.1 spg, 81.8 FT%, 37.8 3-pt%, 34 mpg); Donminic Ellison, G (10.8 ppg, 5.6 apg, 75.8 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 35 mpg; transfer/New Mexico State); Mark Hendrickson, F (16.5 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 57.2 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 33 mpg).
Others lost: Bill Coby, F (transfer/SW Missouri State); Ryan Topper, G.
Starters returning (2): Carlos Daniel, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 53.4 FG%, 70.1 FT%, 27 mpg); Isaac Fontaine, G, 6-3/Sr. (18.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.3 spg, 46.2 FG%, 82.2 FT%, 48.5 3-pt%, 34 mpg).
Other returnees: Will Hutchens, G, 6-3/Soph.; Kareem Jackson, G, 6-2/Sr. (7 mpg); Cameron Johnson, F, 6-7/Sr. (9 mpg); Tavares Mack, F, 6-9/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 57.6 FG%, 21 mpg); Chris Scott, G, 6-2/Sr. (2 rpg); Steve Slotemaker, F, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Beau Archibald, G, 6-7/Fr.; Chris Crosby, F, 6-7/Fr.; Rodrigo de la Fuente, G, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Justin Mott, C, 6-10/Fr.; Blake Pengelly, G, 5-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1941.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Pullman, Wash. **Home court:** Friel Court (12,058).

9. OREGON STATE

Frontcourt: The Beavers' best player is 6-6 freshman Corey Benjamin, considered the top high school prospect in California last year. Alas, he's academically ineligible. His brother, Sonny, is the Beavers' top eligible frontcourt player. Sophomore Iyan Walker showed glimpses of promise, especially in a last-second loss to UCLA. Two JC transfers, forward Terrill Woods and center Chris Rose, are expected to contribute early and often.

Backcourt: How bad were the Beavers last season? Guard J.D. Vetter was their leading scorer—at 10.1 points per game. Vetter is gone, as are underclassmen Rob Williams (coach's decision) and Markee Brown (grades). But the Beavers believe freshman Carson Cunningham and JC transfer Jerome Vaden will provide the best point guard play in Corvallis since a jabber-jaw named Payton.

Keys to success: There are too many to count (after all, the Beavers were last in seven of 12 statistical categories), but here are a few: Walker, Sonny Benjamin and Rose must improve on OSU's minus-7.6 rebounding deficit last season, by far the worst in the league. Cunningham and Vaden must improve on a 3-2 turnover-to-assist ratio. And coach Eddie Payne must convince his troops they can win—on the road, at home, anywhere.

Outlook: Payne welcomes 10 newcomers to his enormous rebuilding task, now in its second year. Despite a 2-16 conference record, he did one of the better coaching jobs in the league last season, using a slowdown approach to give the Beavers a chance to win games that shouldn't have been close. By February his energy had taken hold, as Oregon State finished with close losses to Cal (six points), Arizona State (five in OT) and UCLA (two). But this once-proud program has fallen so far since the Payton era that anything better than the cellar will be considered a massive improvement. This year, it's not beyond reason.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Veal's talents (18.9 ppg, 3.8 apg) will be on display for a poor Arizona State team.

BEAVERS DATA

Coach: Eddie Payne (4-23, 1 year; 163-132 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 4-23. Pac-10: 2-16/10th.
Starters lost (3): Markee Brown, G (8.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.8 spg, 31.8 mpg; academically ineligible); J.D. Vetter, G (10.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 73.8 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 31.6 mpg); Rob Williams, G (9.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.2 spg, 70.0 FT%, 27.6; transfer).
Others lost: Aaron Thomason, F (transfer).
Starters returning (2): Sonny Benjamin, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 29 mpg); Iyan Walker, F, 6-7/Soph. (2.8 rpg, 20.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Bobby Edwards, G, 6-2/Sr. (46.0 FG%, 13.9 mpg); Phil Johnson, F, 6-4/Jr. (10 mpg); Sasa Petrovic, F, 6-9/Soph. (3.0 rpg, 24.1 mpg); Sean Pryor, F, 6-6/Sr. (86.7 FT%, 9.1 mpg); Jeff Riggs, G, 5-9/Soph. (78.4 FT%, 8 mpg).
Top newcomers: J.B. Bickerstaff, G, 6-4/Fr.; Carson Cunningham, G, 6-1/Fr.; Ron Grady, G, 6-5/Fr.; Nick Greene, F, 6-7/Fr.; Nate Knight, C, 6-10/Fr.; Todd Marshall, C, 6-9/Jr. (transfer/St. Mary's); Chris Rose, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Jerome Vaden, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Terrill Woods, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1990 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Corvallis, Ore. **Home court:** Gill Coliseum (10,400).

10. ARIZONA STATE

Frontcourt: It's not particularly big or talented. And if the Sun Devils hope to better their eighth-place finish of last season, they'll have to improve on a minus-4.4 rebounding deficit. The bookend 6-8 power forwards are Okeme Oziwo and Lamar Richardson. Combined, they averaged just 4.7 points and 7.9 rebounds last season. Oziwo, a sophomore, was named ASU's rookie of the year in 1995-96. The third frontcourt starter, 6-7 Rodger Farrington, is the most skilled offensive player up front. Coach Bill Frieder was counting on 6-9 recruit Ryan McDermott, but he opted for pro baseball.

Backcourt: Point guard Lenny Holly left school because of complications from a seizure disorder. His departure places more pressure on Jeremy Veal, the conference's top returning scorer (18.9 points). Veal is dangerous spotting up for 3-pointers or slicing through the defense. Swingman Quincy Brewer does a little of everything. He led ASU in rebounds and assists last year but has limited shooting skills.

Keys to success: With the departure of Ron Riley, defenses will be geared to stop Veal. How will he respond to the attention, especially if asked to run the offense? Farrington and Oziwo must become consistent scoring threats, and somebody must rebound.

Outlook: This looks like Frieder's worst team, including those from the injury-plagued years of 1992-93 and '93-94. He has two walk-ons, two transfers and two true freshmen among his 11 players. And of the five with experience, only Brewer and Veal are proven at this level. No one seems ready to replace Riley's 20 points, or run the offense. An appearance in the Great Alaska Shootout won't allow much opportunity for early season confidence. If the Sun Devils finish above ninth, Frieder deserves coach of the year consideration.

SUN DEVILS DATA

Coach: Bill Frieder (122-88, 7 years; 313-175 overall, 16 years; 8-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-16. Pac-10: 6-12/8th.
Starters lost (1): Ron Riley, G/F (20.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.8 spg, 72.0 FT%, 33.3 mpg).
Others lost: Duane Davis, G (10.5 mpg; transfer/Kansas State); Lenny Holly, G (6.6 ppg, 2.0 apg, 84.6 FT%, 16.1; left school/health reasons); Joe Zaletel, F (3.8 rpg, 19.0 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Quincy Brewer, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 4.3 apg, 1.4 spg, 50.5 FG%, 30.8 mpg); Rodger Farrington, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 54.0 FG%, 23.4 mpg); Okeme Oziwo, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (5.2 rpg, 25.4 mpg); Jeremy Veal, G, 6-3/Jr. (18.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 3.8 apg, 1.6 spg, 81.9 FT%, 36.3 3-pt%, 34.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Lamar Richardson, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (2.7 rpg, 15.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Eddie House, G, 6-0/Fr.; Urit Kelly, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jason Patton, G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1975 (WAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Tempe, Ariz. **Home court:** University Activity Center (14,198). ◆

Jon Wilner covers UCLA for the Los Angeles Daily News.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

ATLANTIC 10

Conference Rank: 9

By Michael Bradley

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

EASTERN DIVISION

1. MASSACHUSETTS
2. TEMPLE
3. RHODE ISLAND
4. ST. JOSEPH'S
5. ST. BONAVENTURE
6. FORDHAM

WESTERN DIVISION

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON
2. XAVIER
3. VIRGINIA TECH
4. DAYTON
5. DUQUESNE
6. LA SALLE

ALL-ATLANTIC 10 TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	ACE CUSTIS, Virginia Tech	6-7/217	Sr.
C	MARC JACKSON, Temple	6-10/270	Jr.
C	ALEXANDER KOUL, George Wash.	7-1/296	Jr.
G	CARMELO TRAVIESO, UMass	6-2/180	Sr.
G	TYSON WHEELER, Rhode Island	5-10/155	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
C	LARI KETNER, Massachusetts	6-10/270	Soph.
G	EDGAR PADILLA, Massachusetts	6-2/175	Sr.
F/G	RASHAAN PALMER, St. Bonaventure	6-5/200	Jr.
F	KEVIN PRICE, Duquesne	6-7/200	Jr.
G	SHAWNTA ROGERS, G. Washington	5-3/150	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ALEXANDER KOUL
C, George Washington

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

LARI KETNER, C, Massachusetts

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Carmelo Travieso, Massachusetts.

Best rebounder: Ace Custis, Virginia Tech.

Best playmaker: Edgar Padilla, Massachusetts.

Best defender: Carmelo Travieso, Massachusetts.

Best leaper: Huey Futch, Temple.

Best under 6 foot: Tyson Wheeler, Rhode Island.

Best over 7 foot: Alexander Koul, George Washington.

Most versatile: Carmelo Travieso, Massachusetts.

Most flamboyant: Shawnta Rogers, George Washington.

Best NBA prospect: Alexander Koul, George Washington.

EASTERN DIVISION

1. MASSACHUSETTS

Frontcourt: While Minutemen fans were mourning Marcus Camby's decision to enter the NBA draft a year early, the coaching staff was lamenting the departures of quiet but deadly forwards Donta Bright and Dana Dingle, whose rebounding and defensive contributions were significant. Heralded sophomore center Lari Ketner, a Prop 48 casualty last season, moves in at center and has A-10 coaches scared, but there is little chance he'll have the same overall package of skills as Camby—at least this season. Hefty senior Tyrone Weeks, agile Inus Norville and freshman Ajmal Basit round out the power rotation, with newcomers Mike Babul and Winston Smith bringing versatility to the wing.

Backcourt: There may not be a better starting backcourt than seniors Edgar Padilla and Carmelo Travieso. Padilla is an expert distributor and sticky defender, and Travieso can bomb away at one end and shut down an opponent's best scorer at the other. Both played for the Puerto Rican Olympic team over the summer. Look for sophomore Charlton Clarke to contribute at both guard spots after an injury-filled freshman season, though he'll receive a stiff challenge from touted freshman Monty Mack. Smith also can swing to the backcourt.

Key to success: Weeks and Norville must serve as frontcourt leaders while the youngsters adapt to the college game.

Outlook: With John Calipari having been lured to the Jersey swamps by the Nets' millions, former assistant James "Bruiser" Flint will try to keep the "Refuse to Lose" spirit alive—provided Calipari doesn't sue for trademark infringement. Flint will have to navigate a typically deadly early schedule but can rely on Padilla and Travieso early while the frontcourt youngsters mature around Weeks and Norville. By season's end, Massachusetts will have enough depth and talent to make some tournament noise, but another Final Four run is out of the question.

MINUTEMEN DATA

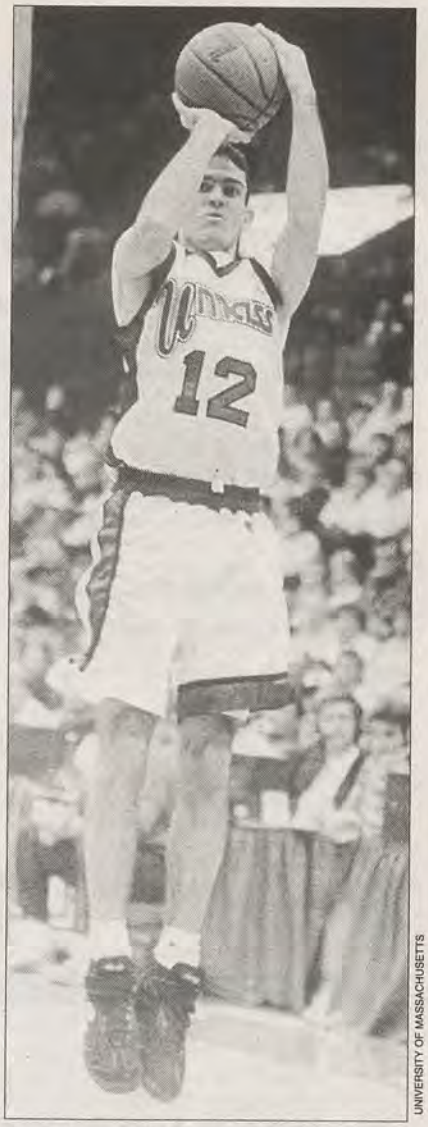
Coach: James "Bruiser" Flint (1st year).
1995-96 record: 35-2. Atlantic 10 East: 15-1/1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA national semifinal.
Starters lost (3): Donta Bright, F (14.5 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.2 spg, 47.9 FG%, 79.4 FT%, 30.6 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg); Marcus Camby, C (**20.5 ppg**, 8.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, **3.8 bpg**, 47.7 FG%, 70.0 FT%, 30.6 mpg; declared for NBA draft); Dana Dingle, F (10.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 46.5 FG%, 32.5 mpg).
Others lost: Ted Cottrell, F/C; Rigoberto Nunez, F; Giddel Padilla, G.
Starters returning (2): Edgar Padilla, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, **6.7 apg**, **2.8 spg**, 70.8 FT%); Carmelo Travieso, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1.3 spg, 40.3 3-pt%).
Other returnees: Ross Burns, G, 6-3/Soph.; Charlton Clarke, G, 6-3/Soph. (8.9 mpg); Andy Maclay, G, 6-4/Soph.; Inus Norville, F, 6-8/Jr. (2.1 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 9.3 mpg); Tyrone Weeks, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 70.0 FT%).
Top newcomers: Mike Babul, F, 6-6/Fr.; Ajmal Basit, C, 6-9/Fr.; Lari Ketner, C, 6-10/Soph. (Prop 48); Chris Kirkland, F, 6-6/Fr.; Monty Mack, G, 6-3/Fr.; Winston Smith, F/G, 6-5/Fr.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Amherst, Mass. **Home court:** Mullins Center (9,493).

2. TEMPLE

Frontcourt: One Atlantic 10 coach who saw slimmed-down junior Marc Jackson this summer didn't recognize him. The whole league will have no trouble identifying him once play starts. Few players in the country crave the rough stuff inside more than Jackson, and that makes coach John Chaney almost giddy. Jackson matured into a highly productive post player last season and should be an even greater force this year. But he will need help. Touted freshman Lamont Barnes is a solid rebounder who must deliver, and Chaney is still waiting for Huey Futch and Lynard Stewart to develop consistency. They had better improve, or Julian Dunkley, a freshman sharpshooter, will take their time.

Backcourt: Last season, Chaney complained about having to use glue and bailing wire in this area. This year, he has some options. But outside shooting is a major concern with the transfer to Clemson of Johnny Miller, though he was extremely erratic. Sophomore Rasheed Brokenborough, an electric scorer in high school who missed last season under Prop 48 requirements, might see time at the point. Chaney likens Argentine freshman Juan "Pepe" Sanchez to former Connecticut standout Doron Sheffer but with "quicker feet." Also figuring in the Owls' plans is freshman Quincy Wadley, a raw point guard.

Keys to success: Chaney must find a



UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Padilla teams with Carmelo Travieso to give UMass the best starting backcourt in the nation.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

shooter to compensate for the loss of Miller. And the young guards must develop the patience necessary to run Chaney's deliberate halfcourt sets and realize that feeding Jackson is the No. 1 option.

Outlook: After years of fielding teams with only six or seven reliable parts, Chaney may have more depth at his disposal—provided his newcomers are as good as advertised. Jackson certainly is and could be on his way to the NBA in a couple years if he keeps banging. Barnes and Dunkley are top-notch recruits up front, while the Brokenborough/Sanchez pairing could be productive and even explosive in the backcourt. As good as Temple might be this season, 1997-98 could be even better.

OWLS DATA

Coach: John Chaney (315-129, 14 years; 540-188 overall, 24 years; 15-12 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-13. Atlantic 10 East: 12-4/2nd. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA Southeast second round.
Starters lost (2): Levan Alston, G (8.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.2 apg, 1.9 spg, 37.6 mpg); Derrick Battie, F (8.9 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 28.2 mpg).
Others lost: William Cunningham, C (8.2 mpg); Jason Ivey, F (5.8 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 39.2 3-pt%, 22.9 mpg); Johnny Miller, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 1.9 spg, 34.6 mpg; transfer/Clemson); Marco Van Velsen, C.
Starters returning (3): Huey Futch, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.1 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.1 spg, 21.5 mpg); Marc Jackson, C, 6-10/Jr. (15.7 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 34.9 mpg); Lynard Stewart, F, 6-7/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.6 spg, 30.7 mpg).
Other returnees: None.
Top newcomers: Lamont Barnes, F, 6-9/Fr.; Rasheed Brokenborough, G, 6-3/Soph. (Prop 48); Julian Dunkley, F, 6-8/Fr.; Malik Moore, G, 6-2/Fr.; Juan Sanchez, G, 6-3/Fr.; Quincy Wadley, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1990.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1989.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** McGonigle Hall (3,900).

3. RHODE ISLAND

Frontcourt: The Rams may not boast a standout here, but they certainly can run plenty of combinations at opponents. Antonio Reynolds was the league's Rookie of the Year last season. Joshua King could break into double figures, and David Arigbabu is a lively reserve. The forwards are solid, but the middle remains shaky. Michael Andersen is back and has matured greatly during the past two seasons, but he'll never dominate, and newcomer Matt Selmer averaged only 4.5 points and 2.8 rebounds in junior college last season.

Backcourt: Tyson Wheeler tries to turn every game into his showcase. He shoots, passes and thrills with equal ability. He leads what could be an even more explosive backcourt than last season, now that junior Cuttino Mobley is back from an elbow injury. Senior Chad Thomas can score and play defense, and Preston Murphy is a solid reserve.

Keys to success: The Rams must develop a consistent frontcourt rotation and find a scoring forward or center to complement their strong guards.

Outlook: It's tough to pick the Rams for third in the Eastern Division, what with all the players they have returning from a team that won 20 games. But Rhode Island's overall talent is a notch below that of Massachusetts and Temple. That said, don't be surprised if the Rams beat both at least once, especially when the Owls and Minutemen visit Kingston. The question is whether the Rams can do it over the long haul, and on the road. Last season's team had a 13-game turnaround from 1994-95, largely at the expense of a weak non-conference schedule and plenty of wins over the conference's lesser lights. The Rams could make it to the NCAA Tournament this season, but they'll have to improve their performances away from Kingston and get better play in the middle.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

Wheeler is the key man in what should be a sterling backcourt for Rhode Island.

RAMS DATA

Coach: Al Skinner (118-116, 8 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-14. Atlantic 10 East: 8-8/4th. Lost to St. Joseph's in NIT third round.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (5): Michael Andersen, C, 7-0/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 48.2 FG%, 24.9 mpg); Joshua King, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.2 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 80.0 FT%, 24.1 mpg); Antonio Reynolds, F, 6-7/Soph. (12.1 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.7 bpg, 46.6 FG%, 30.9 mpg); Chad Thomas, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.6 spg, 48.4 FG%, 28.5 mpg); Tyson Wheeler, G, 5-10/Jr. (16.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 6.0 apg, 1.6 spg, 74.7 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 34.6 mpg).
Other returnees: David Arigbabu, C, 6-8/Soph. (5.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 20.4 mpg); Ibn-Hashim Bakari, F, 6-9/Sr. (13.5 mpg); John Bennett, F, 6-8/Jr.; Brock Erickson, G, 6-1/Jr.; Cuttino Mobley, G, 6-4/Jr. (RS/elbow); Preston Murphy, G, 6-1/Soph. (7.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 73.2 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 21.8 mpg); Chris Wosencroft, G, 6-4/Sr.
Top newcomers: Matt Selmer, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Kingston, R.I. **Home courts:** Keaney Gymnasium (4,000); Providence Civic Center (13,106).

4. ST. JOSEPH'S

Frontcourt: The Hawks lost a lot when Reggie Townsend and Will Johnson graduated, but their replacements won't be too bad. True, no one will score like Townsend or rebound like Johnson, but the whole could be better than last year's aggregation. Coach Phil Martelli predicts sophomore Robert Haskins, a Prop 48 casualty last season, will be the league's newcomer of the year. Nemanja Petrovic is looking trimmer and is ready to produce in the middle, and Dmitri Domani is one of the league's best defensive players and an aggressive veteran with a strong outside shot. JC transfer Harold Rasul won't score much, but few people will beat him downcourt on defense.

Backcourt: In freshman Arthur Davis, the Hawks have the kind of shooting guard they haven't had since before Bernard Blunt tore up his knee three years ago. Davis can create his own scoring opportunities, operates well close to the basket and has good range. Expect him to start, with Terrell Myers, a talented player who needs to exhibit more self-control, providing a spark off the bench. Rashid Bey should begin at the point, but he had better exercise more control, or 160-pound freshman Tim Brown, who Martelli says plays with a great sense of pace, could claim the job.

Key to success: Seniors Domani, Petrovic and Myers must display the same fire and leadership as did the group of elders who led the Hawks to last year's NIT final.

Outlook: Perhaps no team in the country worked harder than St. Joseph's last season, a tribute to last year's seniors. Although Martelli wonders where the leadership will come from, he doesn't have to look far for the talent. Davis and Haskins will make immediate impacts, and Brown could be starting by season's end. But Martelli needs Domani, who has deferred to others during his career, to assert himself every game and must get Petrovic to be the interior force Johnson was last season. St. Joseph's may challenge for the NCAA Tournament if Martelli lands a few more recruiting classes like this year's.

HAWKS DATA

Coach: Phil Martelli (19-13, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 19-13. Atlantic 10 East: 9-7/3rd. Lost to Nebraska in NIT championship game.
Starters lost (3): Mark Bass, G (14.3 ppg, 1.3 spg, 77.5 FT%, 33.1 mpg); Will Johnson, C (10.5 ppg, **10.2 rpg**, 1.0 bpg, 56.1 FG%, 31.2 mpg); Reggie Townsend, F (14.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 51.2 FG%, 76.1 FT%, 34.6 mpg).
Others lost: Bernard Jones, F; Sean Martin, C (transfer/Stonehill College); Dameon Page, G (transfer/Azusa Pacific).
Starters returning (2): Rashid Bey, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 5.0 apg, 1.2 spg, 30.2 mpg); Dmitri Domani, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 71.9 FT%, 47.2 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Bob Del Vescovo, G, 6-3/Sr.; Michael Mazzio, G, 6-2/Soph.; Terrell Myers, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 78.9 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 20.2 mpg); Nemanja Petrovic, C, 6-10/Sr. (3.4 rpg, 12.3 mpg); Duval Simmonds, F, 6-8/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 14.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tim Brown, G, 6-2/Fr.; Arthur Davis, G, 6-4/Fr.; Robert Haskins, F, 6-7/Soph. (Prop 48); Harold Rasul, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Stuart Robbins, C, 6-11/Fr.; Frank Wilkens, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** Alumni Memorial Fieldhouse (3,200).

5. ST. BONAVENTURE

Frontcourt: The Bonnies don't rely on one dominant big man, instead choosing to operate by committee. That's not the worst thing, given they outrebounded opponents by an average of 2.3 per game last season. But in the East Division, which boasts a couple of solid centers, St. Bonaventure is at a disadvantage. Marc Schoone takes up

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space but is too timid, and Robert Blackwell is eager but has limited skills. Kenny McFarland made a big jump last season, proving he can score on the perimeter. Still, his shot needs a little work. Coach Jim Baron needs to get help from freshman Caswell Cyrus, a terror in Canadian AAU action, and a pair of rehabilitation projects, Chris Lumsdon (shoulder) and Terrence Durham (knee). Swingman Rashaan Palmer may have been the league's most surprising player last season; he is the league's second-leading returning scorer. Imagine what he'll do when his free-throw and long-range shooting improve.

Backcourt: Shandue McNeill's numbers sagged last season because he was asked to do too much. He didn't shoot well, and he didn't have enough options on the assist front. With the Bonnies deeper and more experienced, the jet-quick McNeill should produce more consistently this season. Baron already has found his eventual replacement, Tim Winn, a turbo-charged freshman point man who could start at off-guard. James Singleton is a strong defender who can score a little, traits Baron hopes redshirt freshman David Capers will exhibit.

Key to success: The Bonnies must remain healthy in order to employ a nine- or 10-man rotation in this rugged league.

Outlook: St. Bonaventure isn't quite ready to challenge the league's elite. That said, expect the Bonnies to make visitors' mid-winter trips to Olean more miserable than ever. If McNeill can concentrate on penetrating and distributing and the big men produce enough to keep defenses from attacking the perimeter, St. Bonaventure will be tough—at home or on the road.

BONNIES DATA

Coach: Jim Baron (48-65, 4 years; 122-136 overall, 9 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-18. Atlantic 10 East: 4-12/5th.
Starters lost (1): Jerome Spellman, C (6.7 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 1.8 bpg, 49.0 FG%, 24.4 mpg; transfer/Virginia Union).
Others lost: Sidney Shelton, F (3.0 rpg, 15.1 mpg); Daks Williams, G (8.5 mpg; left team).
Starters returning (4): Kenny McFarland, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.0 spg, 1.1 bpg, 29.1 mpg); Shandue McNeill, G, 5-7/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.1 apg, 2.5 spg, 38.3 mpg); Rashaan Palmer, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (16.2 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 46.5 FG%, 30.9 mpg); James Singleton, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.1 spg, 73.6 FT%, 20.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Robert Blackwell, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 24.1 mpg); Terrence Durham, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (4.5 rpg, 14.4 mpg); Chris Lumsdon, C/F, 6-10/Soph. (RS/shoulder); Jamie Moses, G, 5-8/Jr.; Marc Schoone, C, 7-0/Sr. (11.0 mpg); Antoine Wills, G, 6-2/Soph. (11.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: David Capers, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS/wrist); Caswell Cyrus, C, 6-9/Fr.; Tim Winn, G, 5-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1983 (tie, A-10 Western Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1978.
Site: Olean, N.Y. **Home court:** Reilly Center (6,000).

6. FORDHAM

Frontcourt: Coach Nick Macarchuk needs help here and fast. That's why he's happy to see West Virginia transfer Maurice Curtis and Belorussian Alexander Zuskanov in Fordham maroon this year. Curtis should give the team the toughness it lacked last season, while Zuskanov can play with his back to the hole and excels as a rebounder. He may not be another Alexander Koul, a fellow Belarus native, but he's an improvement from what Fordham had. Macarchuk is excited about freshman John Pugh's potential and is certain freshman Collin Watson will give the Rams more athletcism while he battles Dustin Berrien at small forward.

Backcourt: Macarchuk feuded with guard Ray Carroll last season over shot selection, but there's no denying Carroll has the potential to be a productive scorer should he exercise better judgment and improve his range. At least he wants to take the big shot. Billy Lovett is a capable point guard who didn't back down during the team's rough conference baptism last season. Chris DiMascio is a fine shooter who appears to be allergic to defense.

Keys to success: Carroll needs to control himself and the Rams must find more perimeter scoring if they're going to continue their steady transition from a middle-of-the-road Patriot League team to an Atlantic 10 contender. The process won't be easy. Or quick.

Outlook: Macarchuk admits his team was "star struck" during its initial year in the conference. The Rams will be better this season, but they remain too weak in the backcourt and need more strength up front before they will be close to breaking out of the basement. Curtis and Zuskanov should be productive players and will have an immediate impact, particularly on defense. Things can't be as bad as last season, but they can be close.

RAMS DATA

Coach: Nick Macarchuk (137-135, 9 years; 286-263 overall, 19 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 4-23. Atlantic 10 East: 2-14/6th.
Starters lost (2): Darren Deschryver, C (8.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg,

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48.9 FG%, 70.3 FT%, 25.3 mpg); John Henry, F (8.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 52.4 FG%, 29.8 mpg).
Others lost: Rob Baxter, G (4.6 ppg, 2.2 apg, 71.4 FT%, 41.5 3-pt%, 16.9 mpg); David Mascia, G (6.0 ppg, 18.6 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Dustin Berrien, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.3 spg, 73.3 FT%, 28.9 mpg); Ray Carroll, G, 6-3/Soph. (8.4 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 23.7 mpg); Billy Lovett, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 26.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Chris DiMascio, G, 6-6/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 36.4 3-pt%, 12.8 mpg); Jim Kissane, G, 6-5/Sr.; Connie Mack, C, 6-9/Jr. (4.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 49.4 FG%, 17.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Maurice Curtis, F, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/West Virginia); Scott Harmatuk, G, 6-4/Fr.; John Pugh, C/F, 6-10/Fr.; Collin Watson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Alexander Zuskanov, F/C, 6-10/Fr.
Last league title: 1994 (tie, Patriot).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Bronx, N.Y. **Home court:** Rose Hill Gym (3,470).

WESTERN DIVISION

1. GEORGE WASHINGTON

Frontcourt: If 7-1, 296-pound center Alexander Koul would only park his sizable backside on the low block and go to work, he might give Wake Forest's Tim Duncan a run for first-team All-American. Koul is a powerhouse down low who needs only a little Americanization of his attitude (read: selfishness) and fewer fouls to become a star. Belorussian countryman Yegor Mescheriakov should be accustomed to the NCAA game this season and could be ready for a big performance. Seco Camara and Darin Green will get first shots at small forward, and Ferdinand Williams will get 10 minutes a night close to the basket.
Backcourt: It's hard to believe, but 5-3 point man Shawnta Rogers boasts the second-highest rebounding average among returnees. Rogers is a dynamo who manages the offense with aplomb, gets steals and can shoot from downtown. He and Koul are an excellent alpha and omega for the Colonials. Fret not over the graduation of shooting guard Kwame Evans, as J.J. Brade is a superior athlete who could blossom into a great wing scorer. Expect Andrei Krivonos to see plenty of reserve time, and look out for freshman Jackson Payne, who brings a year of prep school experience.
Key to success: The Colonials must find suitable wing replacements for Vaughn Jones and Evans.
Outlook: If Brade and Green develop, the Colonials could be one of the top 15-20 teams in the country by tournament time. The Colonials are in great shape at point guard and center with Rogers and Koul. The only problem could be depth up front. Freshman Patrick Ngongba, a 6-7, 240-pound forward who was expected to contribute at both forward spots, is academically ineligible for at least the first semester. That means Williams must produce, something he hasn't done.

COLONIALS DATA

Coach: Mike Jarvis (113-67, 6 years; 214-118 overall, 11 years; 3-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-8. Atlantic 10 West: 13-3/T1st. Lost to Iowa in NCAA West first round.
Starters lost (2): Kwame Evans, G (18.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.3 spg, 72.9 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 33.3 mpg); Vaughn Jones, G/F (12.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.6 apg, 70.4 FT%, 33.7 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): J.J. Brade, F/G, 6-5/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.4 spg, 57.2 FG%, 24.0 mpg); Alexander Koul, C, 7-1/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 1.8 bpg, **64.2 FG%**, 27.9 mpg); Shawnta Rogers, G, 5-3/Soph. (10.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 6.5 apg, 2.0 spg, 78.4 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 34.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Seco Camara, F, 6-5/Soph.; Darin Green, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (5.0 ppg, 36.4 3-pt%, 13.3 mpg); Rasheed Hazzard, G, 6-0/Jr.; Andrei Krivonos, G, 6-3/Soph.; Yegor Mescheriakov, F, 6-8/Soph. (9.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 74.2 FT%, 26.5 mpg); Andrei Sviridov, F/C, 7-0/Jr. (may miss season with stress fracture in foot); Ferdinand Williams, C/F, 6-10/Sr. (9.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Francisco de Miranda, F, 6-9/Fr.; Patrick Ngongba, F, 6-7/Fr. (academically ineligible first semester); Jackson Payne, G, 6-4/Fr.; Kinte Smith, G, 6-3/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Charles E. Smith Center (5,000).

XAVIER UNIVERSITY

Xavier's Johnson, a junior, is one of the toughest inside players in the Atlantic 10.

2. XAVIER

Frontcourt: Coach Skip Prosser is quick to remind everybody that 6-7, 250-pound junior T.J. Johnson is not a big scorer and never was. Johnson again will be in double figures consistently and can grab eight or nine rebounds a game, but that's it. That's not bad, either. Another power player Prosser expects to count on is Torraye Braggs, a JC transfer with an excellent reputation. Braggs needs to produce right away because Kevin Carr had knee surgery in June and probably won't be ready. James Posey, who sat out last year because of Prop 48 but who was a highly regarded high school player in '95, will give Prosser another big body. That should help take the pressure off freshmen Reggie Butler and Nate Turner.
Backcourt: Darnell Williams, Lenny Brown and Gary Lumpkin each scored more than 11 points per game last season, but Prosser played them more than he wanted to. He's hoping Ken Harvey and Sherwin Anderson will provide a little more stability this season, but they'll have a tough time taking minutes from the second-year trio, which needs only to improve its decision-making abilities to give Xavier a strong perimeter foundation.
Key to success: Braggs and Posey must deliver up front to take the pressure off the young backcourt.
Outlook: Prosser considers last season an aberration and fully expects to have a more aggressive team at both ends this season. Johnson, Braggs and Posey may not be tall, but they are stout and should be factors on the boards and defensively. The young guards need to cut down on turnovers and realize they each don't have to score 20 a night. Xavier should get back up over .500 and challenge for a spot in the NCAA Tournament. But this outfit's best season will no doubt be a year or two down the road.

MUSKETEERS DATA

Coach: Skip Prosser (36-20, 2 years; 53-33 overall, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-15. Atlantic 10 West: 8-8/3rd.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Tyson Brit, F (6.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 73.9 FT%, 18.8 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Lenny Brown, G, 6-2/Soph. (12.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.4 spg, 73.9 FT%, 29.0 mpg); Kevin Carr, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 29.6 mpg); T.J. Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.6 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 52.1 FG%, 29.8 mpg); Gary Lumpkin, G, 6-2/Soph. (11.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 3.2 apg, 76.5 FT%, 40.3 3-pt%, 31.0 mpg); Darnell Williams, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (12.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 71.3 FT%, 40.0 3-pt%, 24.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Sherwin Anderson, G, 5-11/Sr. (2.0 apg, 1.3 spg, 12.0 mpg); Ken Harvey, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 87.3 FT%, 8.9 mpg); Pat Kelsey, G, 5-10/Jr. (7.1 mpg); Leo Murray, F, 6-6/Soph.; Terrance Payne, F, 6-6/Soph. (2.5 rpg, 11.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Torraye Braggs, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Reggie Butler, C, 6-9/Fr.; James Posey, F, 6-7/Soph. (Prop 48); Nate Turner, F/C, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1995 (MCC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Cincinnati. **Home court:** Cincinnati Gardens (10,100).

3. VIRGINIA TECH

Frontcourt: Coach Bill Foster is predicting Ace Custis will lead the league in rebounding. Custis needs to score 15-20 a night and average 10 rebounds for the Hokies to have a shot at an NCAA berth. The rest of the frontcourt is not so stable. Foster calls redshirt freshman Andre Ray the "most athletic player on the team" and hopes he can contribute at small forward. Alvaro Tor has promise, but little experience, in the middle. Keefe Matthews is a solid complementary power player, but freshmen Jesus Rodriguez and Russ Wheeler need time to develop.
Backcourt: Now that point guard Troy Manns has slowed his pulse down from the 200 beats per minute needed to run Paul Westhead's offense at George Mason, he can run the show for the Hokies. Last season, Manns had trouble realizing it isn't a crime to walk the ball up every now and then. Swingman David Jackson can score 25 one night and frustrate his coach the next. Jim, his brother, is a hard worker but has limited offensive skills. You'll see plenty of freshman Brendon Dunlop, a classic Bronx point man whom Foster wants to use at both guard spots.
Key to success: With four starters gone, last season's reserves must step up and deliver, or Custis will develop back trouble from carrying the team.
Outlook: Virginia Tech will take a step back this season and regroup. No matter how good Custis is—and he's one of the nation's best—the team is filled with too

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

many questions to contend. Manns may be a good penetrator, but can he score? Will David Jackson be reliable or mercurial? Last season was the culmination of three years of building, and the Hokies aren't good enough yet to merely insert new pieces and continue rolling But maybe they'll be inspired by the fact Foster has announced this will be his final season.

HOKIES DATA

Coach: Bill Foster (86-62, 5 years; 517-309 overall, 29 years; 4-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 23-6. Atlantic 10 West: 13-3/T1st. Lost to Kentucky in NCAA Midwest second round.
Starters lost (4): Shawn Good, G (8.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 48.2 FG%, 71.7 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 28.0 mpg); Travis Jackson, C (8.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 52.9 3-pt%, 22.0 mpg); Shawn Smith, F (11.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.8 apg, **81.3 FT%**, 28.0 mpg); Damon Watlington, G (12.8 ppg, 2.6 apg, 81.5 FT%, **46.5 3-pt%**, 31.0 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (1): Ace Custis, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 9.5 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 1.0 bpg, 50.7 FG%, 33.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Myron Guillory, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.0 mpg); David Jackson, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (35.5 3-pt%, 8.0 mpg); Jim Jackson, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 15.0 mpg); Troy Manns, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 2.6 apg, 37.8 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg); Keefe Matthews, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (9.0 mpg); Alvaro Tor, C/F, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Brendon Dunlop, G, 6-2/Fr.; Andre Ray, F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Jesus Rodriguez, F, 6-8/Fr.; Russ Wheeler, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Blacksburg, Va. **Home court:** Cassel Coliseum (10,051).

4. DAYTON

Frontcourt: Coach Oliver Purnell isn't worried about how his team will score; he's concerned about who'll get rebounds besides junior forward Ryan Perryman. Perryman has had two fine seasons but must assume the responsibility of being a leader and big producer. Purnell considered freshman Mark Ashman the second-best pivot prospect in Ohio, behind Indiana recruit Jason Collier, so figure the Flyers to be steady, albeit inexperienced, in the middle. Things aren't so secure after that. Coby Turner will have increased responsibilities at small forward but must lift his level of production, too. The same goes for swingman Rodney Horton, whose consistency must improve. And freshman Matt Cooper must provide quality reserve minutes, despite somewhat raw skills.

Backcourt: The Flyers are loaded with possibilities here. The most intriguing is Wisconsin transfer Darnell Hoskins, a senior who'll try to bump Josh Postorino out of the point guard spot upon becoming eligible in the second term. Expect Edwin Young to see time there, too. Andy Metzler gets first shot at shooting guard after a solid but unspectacular season, but he'll receive a challenge from freshman Tony Stanley.

Keys to success: Dayton must receive immediate production from its two new big men and hope its small forwards and big guards can help with rebounding.

Outlook: The Flyers enter 1996-97 emboldened after their first winning season since 1989-90, but there is still a ways to go before they can become contenders. Purnell doesn't expect to have a bunch of double-figure scorers—rather eight or nine guys who can contribute every night. Hoskins will help there by spreading the ball around. But Dayton can't continue to operate within such an egalitarian framework. Someone must step

Ascending: Xavier. Coach Skip Prosser claims last season was an "aberration," and he is right. Xavier had considerable upheaval in 1995-96 and had to rely on three freshmen for much of its scoring. Those players are a year older, but what has Prosser excited is the front line, which should be formidable by season's end. There is no reason Xavier can't get back into the NCAA Tournament.

Descending: Virginia Tech. The Hokies built toward last year's dream season and now must work on moving back to the top. Senior forward Ace Custis remains a stalwart and his numbers should rise, but the Hokies lack backcourt pop and are thin in the middle. There could be postseason participation in the future, but it probably will be the NIT.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Massachusetts center Marcus Camby's. Even the most rabid UMass fan couldn't have expected him to return, and though his outstanding play will be missed, the Minutemen can look forward to three years (they hope) from 6-10 sophomore Lari Ketner, who missed last year as a Prop 48 casualty. Like Camby, Ketner enters the college arena a little raw but with scads of talent and potential. Asking him to replicate Camby's outstanding 1995-96 campaign is unrealistic and unfair. Still, there will be those who want to make comparisons. Don't listen to them—for now.

Most underrated player: Massachusetts guard Edgar Padilla. He doesn't score that much. He isn't lightning-quick. He just wins. Padilla is the classic college point guard: steady, reliable and able to hit the open shot. He may not be coming soon to an NBA team near you, but Padilla is a great college player, pure and simple.

Most overrated player: Duquesne guard Tom Pipkins. He'll score 15 points a night, but he'll need more than that many shots to get there. Pipkins is a fine 3-point shooter, but his game is limited beyond that, a fact proved last season when he struggled in Scott Edgar's up-tempo system. He'll leave Duquesne with some school records, but numbers can be misleading.

Coach on the hot seat: Massachusetts' James "Bruiser" Flint. This isn't fair, but Flint takes over at UMass with quite a burden to bear. John Calipari built the program from nothing into a giant, and Flint must make sure the Mullins Center remains full and the flow of talent continues. He is qualified for the job and should do well, but it isn't easy for any coach to live with meteoric expectations, especially in his first year.

Best Bets: Fans from Massachusetts and Temple will argue all season over who has the toughest schedule. Last year the Owls won, but UMass gets the nod in '96-97. ... Temple coach John Chaney will spend part of at least one game at the end of his bench, sulking over his team's unacceptable play. ... Shawnta Rogers, George Washington's 5-3 point guard and probably the nation's smallest starter, will lead the Colonials in rebounding at least once. ... La Salle freshman Donnie Carr will top the 30-point mark at least once. ...Virginia Tech senior Ace Custis will average double-figure points and rebounds. ... Rhode Island guards Tyson Wheeler and Cuttino Mobley will petition for the use of two basketballs whenever they're on the court together.

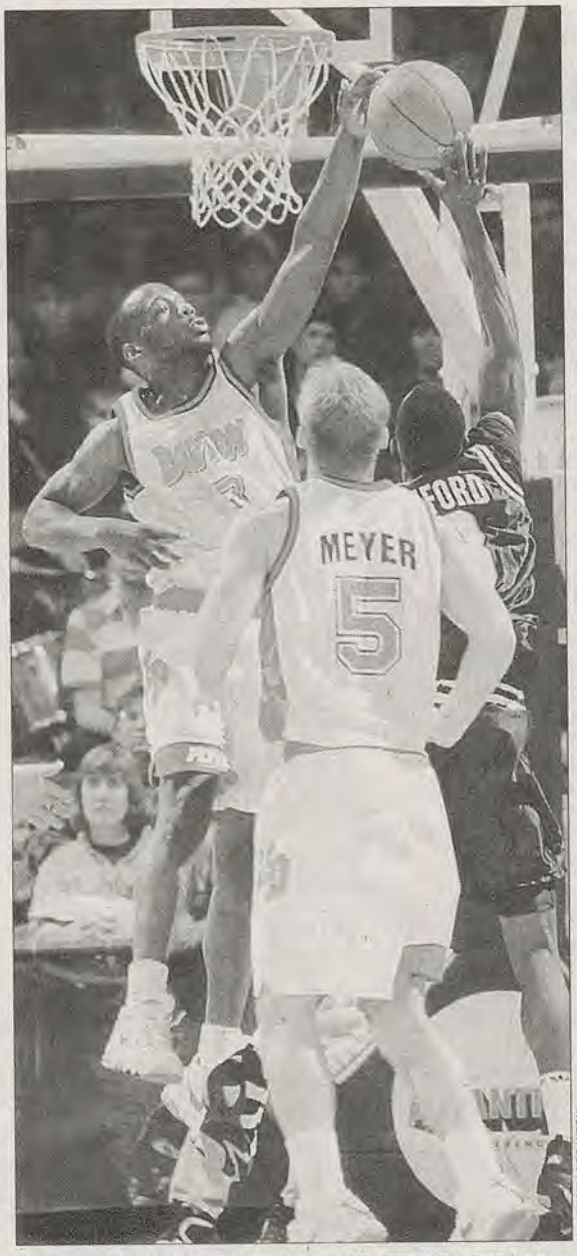
Odds and Ends: College basketball lost one of its best men during the offseason when Temple assistant Jim Maloney died after a heart attack. Maloney, who had been John Chaney's loyal assistant for 23 years and was a former coach at Niagara, was a kind, generous individual who was among the best defensive coaches in the nation. It was he who devised Temple's smothering match-up zone and even taught it to then-UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian, a move that helped the Rebels capture an NCAA title. He will be missed. ... Don't expect La Salle coach Speedy Morris to spend much time chatting with Massachusetts sophomore center Lari Ketner when the two teams meet, though Ketner is an alumnus of Philadelphia's Roman Catholic High School, where Morris coached for years. Two years ago, the Explorers thought they had Ketner locked up, but he took a late visit to Massachusetts and changed his mind. ... St. Bonaventure guard Shandue McNeill should become the school's all-time leader in assists and steals before January. ... The conference will move its postseason tournament from Philadelphia's Civic Center to the CoreStates Spectrum, the affair's third home in as many years. Last season's tournament, the first in which all games were played at one site, was marred by sparse crowds. League officials hope the move to the Spectrum will attract more people. Basketball purists wish the tournament were still held at the Palestra, its home for six years. ◆

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. Massachusetts (F/G Winston Smith). The Minutemen needed frontcourt help, and they received it with Smith—a solid inside player and swingman—Mike Babul, Chris Kirkland and Ajmal Basit.
2. Temple (F Lamont Barnes).
3. George Washington (F Patrick Ngongba).
4. St. Joseph's (G Arthur Davis).
5. Duquesne (F Clifton Jones).
6. Dayton (C/F Mark Ashman).
7. Xavier (F Torraye Braggs).
8. Virginia Tech (G Brendon Dunlop).
9. La Salle (G Donnie Carr).
10. Fordham (F/C Alexander Zuskanov).
11. St. Bonaventure (G Tim Winn).
12. Rhode Island (C Matt Selmer).



UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

Perryman, a junior forward, is coming off an excellent year for a Dayton team that surprisingly finished above .500 last season.

up as a solid second scorer (Turner? Horton?), or rivals will spend the season clamping down on Perryman and daring the others to beat them.

FLYERS DATA

Coach: Oliver Purnell (22-34, 2 years; 123-109 overall, 8 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-14. Atlantic 10 West: 6-10/4th.
Starters lost (3): Jeffrey Brookins, G (7.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 26.7 mpg); Chris Daniels, C (12.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 68.3 FG%, 28.0 mpg; died); Darnell Hahn, G (9.3 ppg, 2.1 apg, 24.9 mpg).
Others lost: Andy Meyer, F (5.9 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 78.6 FT%, 13.5 mpg); Marco Pikaar, C (3.3 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 14.6 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Ryan Perryman, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 9.3 rpg, 56.3 FG%, 28.8 mpg); Josh Postorino, G, 6-0/Soph. (5.3 ppg, 2.7 apg, 80.4 FT%, 37.5 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Maurice Beyina, F, 6-6/Sr.; Shawn Haughn, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.4 mpg); Rodney Horton, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 47.7 FG%, 11.3 mpg); Andy Metzler, G, 6-3/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 82.1 FT%, 35.1 3-pt%, 13.3 mpg); Coby Turner, F, 6-7/Soph. (5.3 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 71.1 FT%, 15.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Mark Ashman, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; Matt Cooper, C, 6-10/Fr.; Darnell Hoskins, G, 6-0/Sr. (transfer/Wisconsin); Tony Stanley, G, 6-4/Fr.; Edwin Young, G, 6-2/Fr.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Dayton, Ohio. **Home court:** University of Dayton Arena (13,455).

5. DUQUESNE

Frontcourt: In an attempt to get the Dukes closer to his ideal style of play—run, press, run some more—second-year coach Scott Edgar will employ an almost entirely new collection of big men to go with Kevin Price, who led the Dukes in scoring and rebounding last season. The results should be much better. A pair of JC transfers, Eriq Mason (who began his career at Rutgers) and Rob Johnson, should provide an immediate upgrade. Freshmen Clifton Jones and Devone Stephenson also will fit Edgar's aggressive style better. Edgar is especially high on Jones, whom he feels will compete favorably with anyone this season and could become a star in a year or two. Neil Hood is back to clog the middle on defense and block an occasional shot, and Nick Bosnic will bomb away from the outside.

Backcourt: Although Tom Pipkins will end his Duquesne career among the leaders in several offensive categories, he has lost his billing as top scorer to Price and Mike James. Pipkins is an excellent 3-point shooter, but he has trouble getting his shot elsewhere. James, on the other hand, can do a little of everything, although his range isn't so good. Expect JC newcomer Markell Sneed to make an instant contribution, using his outstanding quickness to create turnovers.

Key to success: The Dukes must continue to adapt to Edgar's up-tempo style.

Outlook: Edgar is gradually turning Duquesne into a more athletic team. Last season, he tried to convert the holdovers into his kind of players. This season, he's importing versatile players who can play a couple of different positions and run and press forever. The object is to create Arkansas East, where players shuttle in and out, creating different combinations designed to keep opponents off guard. Edgar needs another year or two to find the players necessary for that system.

DUKES DATA

Coach: Scott Edgar (9-18, 1 year; 88-58 overall, 5 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Atlantic 10 West: 3-13/T5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Matt Curley, F (transfer/Boston University; 4.0 ppg, 47.1 FG%; 14.7 mpg); Kenya Hunter, G (7.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.4 apg, 2.2 spg, 38.3 3-pt%, 24.1 mpg); Shelby Roberson, G (4.9 ppg, 1.1 spg, 20.8 mpg; left school).
Starters returning (5): Nick Bosnic, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 72.1 FT%, 40.6 3-pt%, 23.7 mpg); Neil Hood, C, 6-10/Sr. (17.0 mpg); Mike James, G, 6-2/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.9 apg, 2.2 spg, 47.5 FG%, 73.1 FT%, 31.2 mpg); Tom Pipkins, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.7 spg, 77.1 FT%, 38.2 3-pt%, 28.1 mpg); Kevin Price, F, 6-7/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 73.8 FT%, 27.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Terrell Bridges, F, 6-6/Sr. (17.9 mpg); Chris Walker, F, 6-8/Sr.
Top newcomers: Rob Johnson, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Clifton Jones, F, 6-7/Fr.; Eriq Mason, F, 6-9/Jr (JC); Markell Sneed, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Devone Stephenson, F, 6-7/Fr.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Pittsburgh. **Home court:** A.J. Palumbo Center (6,200).

6. LA SALLE

Frontcourt: Coach Speedy Morris admits his team is "two years away from being good," and one of the reasons for his timetable is up front. Everett Catlin is a willing rebounder and defender, but he has limited skills on offense and is too small (6-6) to handle other power players in the league. Big men Jasper van Teeseling and Olof Landgren are slow and soft, and Brian Flickinger spends too much time on the perimeter. That's why Morris is so high on freshman Travar Johnson, the team's best athlete. Johnson can run, jump and block shots, but his offensive game is raw.

Backcourt: Morris calls Donnie Carr "the best La Salle recruit since Randy Woods in 1988." Carr joins a long line of La Salle stars (Michael Brooks, Lionel Simmons, Woods, Kareem Townes) and figures to have 2,000 points by the time he graduates. Point guard Shawn Smith had some battles with Morris last season and needs to show more maturity and better judgment. It would help if he could shoot better, too. Mike Gizzi is the hardest worker on the team, and freshman Ronnie Braxton is an athletic lead guard who can create his own shot.

Key to success: Someone other than Catlin must produce up front.

Outlook: A look at the roster amplifies Morris' assessment that the Explorers are at least two years away from contention. Of the nine upperclassmen, only three are solid contributors. This is an important season for La Salle on the court because it must show signs of life in order for Morris to attract quality players to fill the six open roster spots on next year's team. It will take time, but don't count out the Speedster. He has had too much success to fail miserably now.

EXPLORERS DATA

Coach: Speedy Morris (183-119, 10 years; 1-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 6-24. Atlantic 10 West: 3-13/T5th.
Starters lost (1): Romaine Haywood, F (18.1 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 37.1 mpg).
Others lost: Chris Copeland, F.
Starters returning (4): Everett Catlin, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 30.1 mpg); Mike Gizzi, G, 6-5/Jr. (13.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.6 spg, 40.0 3-pt%, 34.9 mpg); Olof Landgren, F, 6-10/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 21.1 mpg); Shawn Smith, G, 5-10/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 165 apg, 1.9 spg, 36.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Comey, G, 6-1/Sr.; Brian Flickinger, F, 6-9/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 21.9 mpg); Steve Fromal, G, 6-1/Sr. (8.7 mpg); Mike Melchionni, F, 6-7/Sr.; Jasper van Teeseling, C, 6-11/Sr. (2.6 rpg, 13.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ronnie Braxton, G, 6-2/Fr.; Donnie Carr, G, 6-4/Fr.; Travar Johnson, F/C, 6-8/Fr. (transfer/Marshall); James Jordan, F, 6-9/Fr.
Last league title: 1990 (MAAC South).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** CoreStates Spectrum (18,060). ◆

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

MISSOURI VALLEY

Conference Rank: 10

By Steve Pivovar

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. ILLINOIS STATE
2. SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE
3. BRADLEY
4. CREIGHTON
5. EVANSVILLE
6. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
7. NORTHERN IOWA
8. DRAKE
9. WICHITA STATE
10. INDIANA STATE

ALL-MVC TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G/F	RODNEY BUFORD, Creighton	6-5/190	Soph.
G	JASON DAISY, Northern Iowa	6-3/180	Sr.
F	DAN MULLER, Illinois State	6-6/200	Jr.
G/F	ANTHONY PARKER, Bradley	6-6/210	Sr.
G	LYNNRICK ROGERS, Drake	6-1/170	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

F	COLECO BUIE, SW Missouri	6-5/210	Sr.
G	TROY HUDSON, Southern Illinois	6-1/170	Jr.
F	CHUCKIE JOHNSON, Creighton	6-6/220	Sr.
G/F	BEN KANDLBINDER, SW Missouri	6-4/200	Jr.
G	JAMAR SMILEY, Illinois State	5-11/180	Jr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ANTHONY PARKER
G/F, Bradley

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

KEVIN AULT, G, SW Missouri State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Anthony Parker, Bradley.

Best rebounder: Jim Cruse, Indiana State.

Best playmaker: Jamar Smiley, Illinois State.

Best defender: Dan Muller, Illinois State.

Best leaper: Rodney Buford, Creighton.

Best under 6 foot: Jamar Smiley, Illinois State.

Best over 7 foot: None.

Most versatile: Anthony Parker, Bradley.

Most flamboyant: Troy Hudson, Southern Illinois.

Best NBA prospect: Anthony Parker, Bradley.

1. ILLINOIS STATE

Frontcourt: Rico Hill, Dan Muller and LeRoy Watkins provide the necessary ingredients up front. Muller is the league's best stopper, earning defensive player of the year honors last season. He's also one of the league's most durable players, averaging 31 minutes a game while starting all 67 games since arriving on campus. Watkins has impact potential in a league lacking talented big men. Watkins (265 pounds) blossomed late, averaging 9.7 points and 6.0 rebounds a game in NIT play. Hill showed plenty of potential while starting 22 games last season as a freshman. There's also quality depth in banger Rob Gibbons and Kenneth Pierson, one of the best leapers in the league. If that's not enough, Illinois State signed 23-year-old Ronald vanVelven of the Netherlands.

Backcourt: Jamar Smiley is arguably the Valley's best assist man, finishing 13th nationally last season with a 6.7 average. He returns at the point and has a capable backup in Steve Hansell, who played in 15 games last year after becoming eligible. The Redbirds lost most of their perimeter attack with the departure of leading scorer Maurice Trotter and Antonio Cooper. Transfer Skipp Schaefbauer, who sat out last year, has the inside track for the off-guard spot. Considered the team's best athlete (36.5-inch vertical leap), Schaefbauer started at East Carolina before transferring.

Key to success: Continuing the stingy ways on defense. The Redbirds limited opponents to 41.1 percent field-goal shooting last season.

Outlook: After making NIT appearances the past two seasons, the Redbirds look ready to dance their way into the NCAA Tournament. Illinois State stacks up as the class of the Valley, boasting size and depth up front and Smiley in the backcourt. And as good as Illinois State could be this season, the Redbirds could even be better next season as coach Kevin Stallings' roster has no seniors.

REDBIRDS DATA

Coach: Kevin Stallings (58-36, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 22-12. MVC: 13-5/2nd. Lost to Tulane in NIT third round.
Starters lost (1): Maurice Trotter, G (14.9 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 77.8 FT%, 31.6 mpg).
Others lost: Antonio Cooper, G (5.9 ppg, 1.0 rpg); Kenny Wright, F (7.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg).
Starters returning (4): Rico Hill, F, 6-6/Soph. (8.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 51.3 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 21.9 mpg); Dan Muller, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.2 apg, 75.0 FT%, 35.2 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg); Jamar Smiley, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg, **6.4 apg**, 1.0 spg, 71.7 FT%, 31.5 mpg); LeRoy Watkins, C, 6-7/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 51.3 FG%, 20.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Kyle Cartmill, G, 6-0/Soph. (10.5 mpg); Steve Hansell, G, 6-3/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.1 spg, 48.8 FG%, 70.3 FT%, 16.5 mpg); Rob Gibbons, C, 6-10/Jr. (56.4 FG%, 8.3 mpg); Kenneth Pierson, F, 6-9/Soph. (7.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Joe Hein, F, 6-7/Fr.; Ben Holmstrom, F, 6-8/Soph. (transfer/Miami of Ohio); Skipp Schaefbauer, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/East Carolina); Ronald vanVelzen, C, 6-10/Soph.
Last league title: 1993.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Normal, Ill. **Home court:** Redbird Arena (10,200).

2. SW MISSOURI STATE

Frontcourt: Coach Steve Alford expects 6-11 transfer Danny Moore (Miami of Ohio) to start up front, probably at center. Alford had been counting on Oklahoma State transfer John Paul Nelson, a 7-footer, to start in the middle, but Nelson ran into academic trouble; he will miss at least the first semester. Coleco Buie, a close second in voting to Creighton's Rodney Buford for the Valley's top newcomer, returns at small forward. His quickness gave opponents fits last season as he led the team in steals. The Bears have experienced backups in Monte Marsh and Tony Davis. Depth gives two freshmen—center Omar Lincoln and forward John Jones—a chance to develop.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Kandlbinder, who can swing between small forward and off-guard, is a key for Southwest.

Backcourt: Swingman Ben Kandlbinder led the Bears in scoring a year ago, but he needs to improve his consistency and not disappear when the team needs him the most. He can swing between off-guard and small forward. As a freshman, Ryan Bettenhausen shared time with Josh Hotz and produced adequate results, while Hotz led the Bears with 41 3-pointers. Kevin Ault, Indiana's "Mr. Basketball" last season, will get a good look, as will William Fontleroy.

Key to success: Finding the proper mix of old and new.

Outlook: The Bears surprised fans with last season's fourth-place finish after the experts had them pegged for a lower-division finish. If newcomers pan out, Southwest could emerge as a contender. The addition of Jones, Moore, Ault and others also gives Southwest an ingredient it lacked a year ago—depth. "The guys knew that even if they weren't playing well, we didn't have a lot of moves we could make," Alford said. Alford doesn't expect a repeat of that scenario with plenty to pick from in his second season in Springfield.

BEARS DATA

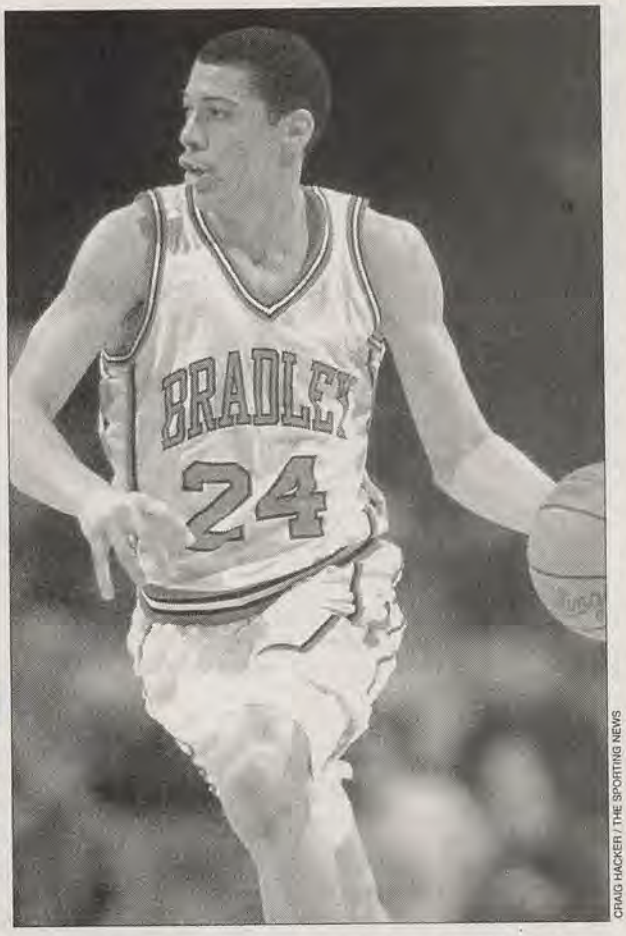
Coach: Steve Alford (16-12, 1 year; 94-41 overall, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 16-12. MVC: 11-7/4th.
Starters lost (2): Johnny Epps, C (10.1 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, **2.1 bpg**, 47.4 FG%, 28.1 mpg); Robert Wilkerson, G/F (11.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.2 spg, 46.7 FG%, 76.4 FT%, 31.9 mpg).
Others lost: Ales Kunc, F (5.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 52.7 FG%, 14.0 mpg; signed pro contract in Slovenia); Chris Shorter, G (con-

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

centrating on baseball).
Starters returning (3): Ryan Bettenhausen, G, 6-1/Soph. (6.4 ppg, 77.3 FT%, 37.3 3-pt%, 24.3 mpg); Coleco Buie, F, 6-5/Sr. (13.1 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 38.2 3-pt%, 27.2 mpg); Ben Kandlbinder, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (14.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.2 apg, 48.6 FG%, 83.1 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Jo Jo Dabbs, G, 6-3/Sr.; Tony Davis, F/C, 6-5/Sr.; Josh Hotz, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.6 ppg, **46.6 3-pt%**, 19.2 mpg); Monte Marsh, F, 6-5/Sr. (46.8 FG%, 11.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kevin Ault, G, 6-2/Fr.; William Fontleroy, G, 6-1/Fr.; John Jones, F, 6-7/Fr.; Omar Lincoln, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Danny Moore, F/C, 6-11/Soph. (transfer/Miami of Ohio); John Paul Nelson, C, 7-0/Soph. (transfer/Oklahoma State; academically ineligible for at least the first semester); Paul Nurans, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1990 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Springfield, Mo. **Home court:** Hammons Student Center (8,858).

3. BRADLEY

Frontcourt: Rugged Chad Kleine and Dwayne Funches and sometimes-spectacular Deon Jackson combined to average 29 points and 13 rebounds a game. Their departure leaves junior Adebayo Akinkunle, the tongue-twisting bane of league broadcasters, as the only experienced frontcourt player. Akinkunle averaged 5.3 points and 3.5 rebounds while playing about 19 minutes a game last season. He started a dozen games while sharing time with Kleine. Freshman Matt Lee could have the inside track to replacing Jackson, while freshmen Ed Cage and Cameron Rigby are expected to challenge for playing time. Rigby, an Australian native, played high school basketball in Anchorage, Alaska.
Backcourt: The Braves lost four-year starter Billy Wright at the point but return the league's player of the year in Anthony Parker, the school's best all-around player since Hersey Hawkins and one of the best players in the nation. Parker, the school's all-time leader in 3-pointers and 14th on the Braves' scoring chart, led Bradley in scoring and rebounding last season. With Bradley's assortment of question marks up front, look for Parker to play closer to the basket this season. Sixth man Aaron Zobrist, the Braves' 3-point specialist the past two seasons, returns, as does defensive stopper Kerry Burrell. Robert Dye, a 6-1 Illinois all-stater, is projected to move into Wright's spot at the point, while Eric Roberson, who redshirted last season after blowing out his knee, also figures in the mix.
Key to success: How quickly the new faces up front adjust to the Division I level.
Outlook: Parker's presence should keep the Braves from free-falling out of the Valley's upper division. Having the league's best player in the lineup leaves Bradley in position to reload instead of rebuild. Still, coach Jim Molinari faces his stiffest challenge since arriving six years ago and finding the program on life support. Molinari's five-year plan took the Braves from the bottom to the top and produced a string of three consecutive 20-win seasons. Although odds are the Braves won't make it four, they could be tough to bet against by tournament time if new faces in the lineup come through.



CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Bradley's Parker, one of the best guards in the nation, could end up playing some forward because of the Braves' losses in the frontcourt.

BRAVES DATA

Coach: Jim Molinari (83-65, 5 years; 125-82 overall, 7 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-8. MVC: 15-3/1st. Lost to Stanford in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost (4): Dwayne Funches, F (11.6 ppg, 5.3 rpg, **52.4 FG%**, 28.1 mpg); Deon Jackson, F (11.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 76.9 FT%, 24.2 mpg); Chad Kleine, C (6.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 75.5 FT%, 36.6 3-pt%, 23.0 mpg); Billy Wright, G (4.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 5.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 31.2 mpg).
Others lost: James Baptist, C; Ben Coupet, C (9.7 mpg; left school); Boo Nwaogwugwu, F.
Starters returning (1): Anthony Parker, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 1.1 bpg, 47.2 FG%, 79.7 FT%, 42.2 3-pt%, 32.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Adebayo Akinkunle, C, 6-8/Jr. (5.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 18.5 mpg); Kerry Burrell, G, 6-3/Sr. (15.0 mpg); Marcus Samuels, G, 5-11/Jr.; Gavin Schairer, F, 6-7/Soph.; Aaron Zobrist, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 39.3 3-pt%, 19.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ed Cage, F, 6-7/Fr.; Michael Collins, F, 6-5/Fr. (RS); Robert Dye, G, 6-1/Fr.; Matt Lee, F, 6-8/Fr.; Cameron Rigby, F, 6-8/Fr.; Eric Roberson, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS/knee).
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Peoria, Ill. **Home court:** Carver Arena (10,825).

4. CREIGHTON

Frontcourt: The Bluejays are banking on quantity to make up for lack of a quality inside threat. Muscular JC transfer Chuckie Johnson came on strong as the season progressed and shot 51.7 percent from the field in league games. Johnson rarely backs down while battling for his points inside. Injuries diminished the effectiveness of forwards Carteze Loudermilk (infection in knee) and Randall Crutcher (knee, shoulder) last season. If healthy, they could help take the heat off Johnson. Adam Reid and Joel Templeman might lack smoothness, but they combined to average 6.8 points and 6.4 rebounds a game. Kevin Mungin has talent but must overcome inconsistency. Lamont Scott, the team's strongest player, could provide help after redshirting last season.
Backcourt: Swingman Rodney Buford became only the second player in school history—Benoit Benjamin was the first—to score 400 points as a freshman. Buford finished with 421 points, a team-leading 14.5-point average and a sweep of the league freshman and newcomer of the year awards. Edward St. Fleur gave Creighton some much-needed toughness at the point. The only Bluejays player to start all 29 games, St. Fleur committed just 51 turnovers (1.8 per game) while handling the ball most of the time. Streaky sophomore Chris Chestnut and senior Troy Wharton add depth, while Matt West could get a strong look. Touted freshman Ben Walker failed to meet NCAA qualifying standards.
Key to success: Buford's ability to adjust to being the marked man when the Bluejays have the ball.
Outlook: Creighton made big strides in coach Dana Altman's second season, winning 14 games, finishing tied for fifth and qualifying for the league's postseason tournament for the first time in four seasons. The numbers indicate the Bluejays are primed to continue their resurgence—the 10 returning lettermen accounted for 88.3 percent of the team's offense, 94 percent of the team's rebounding and 88.6 percent of the minutes played. In Buford, the Bluejays have one of the league's most exciting players. Still, continued improvement is dependent on Altman getting the most out of a talent pool that ranks a couple of notches below the league's best.

BLUEJAYS DATA

Coach: Dana Altman (21-34, 2 years; 104-101 overall, 7 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 14-15. MVC: 9-9/T5th.
Starters lost (1): Tad Ackerman, G (6.9 ppg, 20.2 mpg).
Others lost: Marcus Lockett, G.
Starters returning (4): Chuckie Johnson, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Carteze Loudermilk, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 22.4 mpg); Edward St. Fleur, G, 6-0/Sr. (10.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.8 spg, 75.0 FT%, 32.9 mpg); Joel Templeman, F, 6-9/Jr. (2.9 rpg, 13.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Rodney Buford, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (14.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 46.2 FG%, 72.8 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 25.9 mpg); Chris Chestnut, G, 6-2/Soph. (4.5 ppg, 13.1 mpg); Randall Crutcher, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 17.7 mpg); Kevin Mungin, F, 6-7/Soph. (9.0 mpg); Adam Reid, F, 6-8/Jr. (3.5 rpg, 17.8 mpg); Troy Wharton, G, 5-11/Sr. (11.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Justin Haynes, F, 6-5/Fr.; Lamont Scott, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Matt West, G, 6-4/Fr.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Omaha, Neb. **Home court:** Omaha Civic Auditorium (9,481).

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

5. EVANSVILLE

Frontcourt: The silver lining to the Aces' injury-marred 1995-96 season was that many players benefited from on-the-job training. Emi Morales was Evansville's third-string center until injuries vaulted him into the lineup in January. He enjoyed a strong finish, recording four double-figure scoring nights and averaging 7.0 rebounds a game in the final three weeks. Chris Hollender and Curt Begle also got more playing time than expected, and they developed into steady rebounders. Joining Morales, Begle and Hollender in the mix are Jeff Layden and Chris Quinn. Layden's development was slowed by a foot injury that put him on the sideline for a month. The Aces will look for Quinn, who averaged 5.0 points a game last year, to recapture the sophomore form that saw him average 9.6 points per game. Recruit Kwame James will add bulk (6-8, 240 pounds).

Backcourt: The Aces are young, deep and talented at guard with the return of Marcus Wilson, Kareem Richardson, Justin Farley and Stuart Sullivan. Wilson, a member of the Valley's all-newcomers team, led the Aces in scoring last season and averaged 16.2 points in league play. Richardson, picked to the league's all-underrated team, is a pest on defense—he led Evansville in steals as well as assists—and Sullivan led the Aces with 42 3-point baskets while shooting 45.7 percent from beyond the arc.

Key to success: Avoiding injuries that turned last season into a M*A*S*H rerun.

Outlook: Coach Jim Crews offers no excuses for his first losing season since 1986. Chances are the Aces aren't about to making losing a habit. They return their top eight scorers from a team that finished second in the Valley in both shooting percentage and shooting defense and seventh in the nation in 3-point shooting. Cleaning up deficiencies in rebounding (opponents grabbed 69 more offensive rebounds than the Aces) and ballhandling (Evansville committed 40 more turnovers than its opponents) are prime concerns heading into the season.

ACES DATA

Coach: Jim Crews (200-121, 11 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-14. MVC: 9-9/T5th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Brian Jackson, G (13.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 3.6 apg, 47.5 FG%, 78.9 FT%, 46.9 3-pt%, 32.0 mpg); Darick Loving, G (4.4 ppg, 12.4 mpg; transfer); Eyal Sayar, C (transfer); Rex Simmermaker, G; Scott Sparks, F/C (10.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 53.4 FG%, 19.8 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Justin Farley, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (11.2 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 26.1 mpg); Jeff Layden, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 20.5 mpg); Emi Morales, F, 6-8/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 58.3 FG%, 17.1 mpg); Kareem Richardson, G, 5-11/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.4 spg, 74.7 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 31.6 mpg); Marcus Wilson, G, 6-3/Soph. (13.4 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 45.3 FG%, **88.2 FT%**, 38.2 3-pt%, 28.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Curt Begle, F, 6-8/Soph. (5.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 16.9 mpg); Chris Hollender, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 81.6 FT%, 50.0 3-pt%, 20.1 mpg); Chris Quinn, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 55.0 FG%, 15.9 mpg); Stuart Sullivan, G, 6-0/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 78.8 FT%, 45.7 3-pt%, 22.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kwame James, F/C, 6-8/Fr.; John Risinger, G, 6-4/Fr.; Ryan Robertson, G, 6-1/Fr.
Last league title: 1993 (tie, Midwestern Collegiate).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Evansville, Ind. **Home court:** Roberts Stadium (12,300).

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Northern Iowa's Daisy, who led the league in scoring, is one of a number of top-notch guards in the Valley.

6. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Frontcourt: No one mistook last year's starters, Scott Burzynski and Aminu Timberlake, for Ashraf Amaya or Marcus Timmons. Still, their departure leaves the Salukis with a gaping hole, particularly with the academic ineligibility of highly touted 6-8 JC transfer Damon Parks. Holdovers Monte Jenkins, James Jackson and James Watts combined to average 9.9 points and 8.8 rebounds a game, while 6-7 reserve Jamie Veach, who quit the team after his sophomore season, returns after a year's absence. Touted JC transfer Rashad Tucker will be counted on to play early and often. Tucker, who can play guard or forward, starred at Carbondale High with Salukis guard Troy Hudson before averaging 15.9 points per game at Southeastern Community College in Iowa.

Backcourt: Hudson never took a shot he didn't like, and the former Missouri player took a lot of them (459) last season. He also missed a lot of them, shooting 39.0 percent from the field and 37.7 percent from 3-point range. Hudson did set a number of school records for 3-point shooting, including taking 19 and making 11 against Hawaii-Hilo. Two-year starter Shane Hawkins also is back. Between them, Hudson and Hawkins took 460 of Southern's school-record 778 3-point shots last season. The team must replace last season's MVP, steady Jaratio Tucker. JC transfer Lance Brown and little-used sophomores DaShonn Ford, Ryan Hammer and Sam Plum will scrap for playing time.

Key to success: The development of Tucker and the frontcourt.

Outlook: The good news is that the Salukis won't miss out on the league tournament this season after failing to qualify for postseason play last season for the first time since 1986. The Salukis' absence cost the Valley at the gate last season and is believed to be the underlying reason the league changed its stance and decided to invite all schools to the postseason tournament instead of just the top eight finishers. Regardless, Southern's stay in St. Louis could be a short one if frontcourt help does not materialize. The Salukis lost 12 of their last 14 games last season, and prospects for a quick turnaround aren't bright.

SALUKIS DATA

Coach: Rich Herrin (198-141, 11 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-18. MVC: 4-14/T10th.
Starters lost (3): Scott Burzynski, F (9.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 2.1 apg, 28.4 mpg); Aminu Timberlake, C (4.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 18.8 mpg); Jaratio Tucker, G/F (10.8 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.4 apg, 29.8 mpg).
Others lost: Damon Jones, C (3.1 rpg, 12.7 mpg; quit team); Johnny Dadzie, G (2.1 rpg, 13.2 mpg); Brian Laur, (1.7 mpg); Reggie Nelson, F (transfer); Shane Wells, C, (1.3 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Shane Hawkins, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.1 spg, 75.7 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 33.3 mpg); Troy Hudson, G, 6-1/Jr. (21.3 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.1 spg, 79.6 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 32.5 mpg).
Other returnees: DaShonn Ford, G, 5-9/Soph. (7.0 mpg); Ryan Hammer, G, 6-1/Soph.; James Jackson, C, 6-7/Soph. (2.3 rpg, 8.6 mpg); Monte Jenkins, G, 6-5/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 11.4 mpg); Sam Plum, G, 6-1/Soph.; Jamie Veach, F, 6-7/Sr. (not on team last season); James Watts, C, 6-8/Soph. (4.5 rpg, 16.3 mpg);
Top newcomers: Lance Brown, G, 6-3/Soph. (JC); Rashad Tucker, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1994 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Carbondale, Ill. **Home court:** SIU Arena (10,014).

7. NORTHERN IOWA

Frontcourt: The Panthers will be looking to a pair of JC transfers—center Chris Burdine and forward Mike Parks—to shore up weak rebounding. The Panthers were outrebounded by an average of 40.1-35.8 last season. Also expected to help out is freshman Burt Lappe, a first-team Iowa all-stater. Brian Heying led the team in rebounding a year ago and returns, as does leaper Sean Hawkins. Neither are consistent scoring threats, so coach Eldon Miller hopes newcomers can provide assistance in that area. Hawkins also has to stay away from fouls that often left him on the bench a year ago.

Backcourt: The trio of Jason Daisy, Darian DeVries and Tony Brus packs a punch. Daisy, the country's 18th-leading scorer last season at 22.3 points per game, is dangerous from the perimeter and on the drive. He made the Valley's most-improved team last season and was a first-team all-conference pick. DeVries split time at the point with Brian Carpenter, so the Panthers have an experienced hand to get Daisy the ball. Brus turned in his share of solid minutes as a freshman and finished as the team's fourth-leading scorer. Newcomer Terry Cress, another Iowa all-stater, should play his way into the rotation.

Key to success: Developing an inside scoring threat to take the heat off Daisy.

Outlook: Miller expects to field perhaps his best team since 1990, when the Panthers advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Solid efforts are needed early from the experienced backcourt in order for newcomers up front to develop. If that happens, the Panthers could rise above a logjam in the middle of the league. If not, Miller's days in Cedar Falls could be numbered. In spite of the team's six-win improvement last season—from 8-20 to 14-13—Miller caught considerable heat from Panthers faithful.

PANTHERS DATA

Coach: Eldon Miller (138-149, 10 years; 542-390 overall, 34 years; 5-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 14-13. MVC: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost (1): Brian Carpenter, G (12.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.4 apg, 2.0 spg, 77.8 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg).
Others lost: Munib Dzuho, F/C; Jerry Nelson, C (10.8 mpg; transfer/St. Cloud State); Jason Sims, C (7.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 55.2 FG%, 18.6 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Jason Daisy, G, 6-3/Sr. (**22.3 ppg**, 4.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.2 spg, 48.9 FG%, 73.0 FT%, 42.0 3-pt%, 32.0 mpg); Darian DeVries, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.4 spg, 86.5 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 23.5 mpg); Sean Hawkins, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 50.6 FG%, 16.6 mpg); Brian Heying, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (5.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.2 spg, 25.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Seth Anderson, G, 6-1/Sr.; Tony Brus, G, 6-1/Soph. (8.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 73.4 FT%, 41.4 3-pt%, 19.1 mpg); Warren Vandeven; F/C, 6-7/Sr. (3.3 rpg, 17.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chris Burdine, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Terry Cress, G, 6-2/Fr.; Burt Lappe, F, 6-9/Fr.; Mike Parks, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Cedar Falls, Iowa. **Home court:** UNI-Dome (10,000).

8. DRAKE

Frontcourt: The return of forward Kevin Bennett couldn't come at a better time for the Bulldogs, who are light on returning players up front. Drake lost small forward B.J. Windhorst, perhaps the league's most intense player, along with Ken Maxey and Bruce Overton. Bennett, who averaged 10.4 points and 5.9 rebounds while leading the league in blocks two seasons ago, redshirted last season after dislocating his shoulder in preseason drills. Tyrone Hicks' production (4.7 points, 3.0 rebounds) and consistency must improve as he gets more playing time this season. Rashaad Thomas could be the wild card after cleaning up academic problems that sidelined him after a dozen games last season. He averaged 9.4 points and 3.0 rebounds before heading to the bench.

Backcourt: Lynnrick Rogers might be the Valley's quickest player, and the senior has a chance to become the Bulldogs' all-time leading scorer. He begins the season 10th on the school's all-time scoring list and needs 530 points to pass leader Red Murrell (1,657 points). Drake's go-to guy on offense, Rogers has reached 20 points 23 times in the past two seasons. Finding someone to get Rogers the ball is a priority, as hustling Dan Knuckey's departure leaves a hole at the point. Robert Foster or Shawn Caracoza are possible replacements, and freshman Armand LeVasseur will get a look.

Key to success: Surviving an early-season schedule that includes December road games at Colorado and Iowa State and home encounters against Eastern Michigan, which made it to the NCAA's Sweet Sixteen, and Iowa.

Outlook: New coach Kurt Kanaskie has enjoyed success at the Division II level while rebuilding programs at Lock Haven and Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The program at Indiana had won just 18 games in the four seasons before his arrival in 1988. He left the school with a 152-75 record, including an 80-12 mark the past three seasons that featured two appearances in the Division II Elite Eight. Kanaskie's first Drake team will have 11 lettermen. But with the exception of Rogers, the Bulldogs' talent doesn't measure up to the rest of the league's.

BULLDOGS DATA

Coach: Kurt Kanaskie (1st year; 207-107 overall, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. MVC: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost (4): Dan Knuckey, G (5.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.1 apg, **2.4 spg**, 50.0 FG%, 31.6 mpg); Ken Maxey, C (7.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 58.1 FG%, 30.3 mpg); Bruce Overton, F (5.2 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 20.4 mpg); B.J. Windhorst, F (15.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.1 spg, 70.0 FT%, 39.2 3-pt%, 32.1 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (1): Lynnrick Rogers, G, 6-1/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.8 spg, 79.1 FT%, 33.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Kevin Bennett, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS/shoulder); Brian Butler, G, 6-2/So. (2.5 mpg); Shawn Caracoza, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.0 ppg, 42.3 3-pt%, 12.4 mpg); Robert Foster, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (11.6 mpg); Tyrone Hicks, F, 6-5/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 16.1 mpg); Chris King, G, 5-11/Soph.); Andy Pawlowski, C, 6-8/Jr. (1.2 rpg, 5.7 ppg); Kory Petzenhauser, G, 6-4/Soph. (14.8 mpg); Billy Shell, G, 6-2/So. (1.8 ppg, 3.4 mpg); Rashaad Thomas, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 21.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Armand LeVasseur, G, 6-2/Fr.; Andy Nath, F, 6-7/Fr.; Abdean Smith, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Last league title: 1971.
Last NCAA appearance: 1971.
Site: Des Moines, Iowa. **Home court:** Knapp Center (7,002).

9. WICHITA STATE

Frontcourt: The question at Wichita State is which Jamie Arnold will show up this season. Will it be the Arnold who stamped himself as an emerging star with his play as a freshman and sophomore? Or will it be the disgruntled Arnold, who spent much of last season in former coach Scott Thompson's doghouse? Granted, injuries took away some of Arnold's effectiveness last season. He started just five times and played in 15 games, averaging 7.4 points and 5.6 rebounds a game. The Shockers need him to return to sophomore form, when he led the league in rebounding and field-goal shooting. Forward Darin Miller has his moments but lacks overall consistency. New coach Randy Smithson must replace rugged Larry Callis, and he has candidates in 22-game starter Carter Arnett, JC transfers Ty Rhodes and Roosevelt Overstreet and freshman Darrin Williams.

Backcourt: The one given is that streaky but talented Marvin Hill returns at offguard. Hill finished as the Shockers' second-leading scorer but must improve his shooting touch (35.1 percent overall, 26.9 percent from 3-point range) to become more effective. Melvin McKey's departure leaves a hole at the point that could be filled by Terry Hankton, who, like Rhodes, followed Smithson from Butler County (Kan.) CC. Jason Perez, signed by Thompson last fall, joins two other freshmen—Dwayne Anthony and Carl Lemons—in the mix. The Shockers could have a sleeper in L.J. Goolsby, who transferred from Mississippi and redshirted last season.

Key to success: Putting the ball in the hoop. The Shockers finished at the bottom of the league in scoring last season with a 61-point average.

Outlook: Wichita State's list of negatives was lengthy last season. The Shockers failed to qualify for the league tournament for the first time and didn't have a double-figure scorer for the first time since the 1948-49 season. Add morale problems to the mix and it's easy to see why Thompson resigned under pressure. Enter Smithson, a part of the Shockers' glory days of the late '70s and early '80s. At Butler County, Smithson posted a 273-95 record in 11 seasons and produced more than 50 Division I players. The Shockers will be improved this season—it would be hard to get any worse. One factor working in Smithson's favor is that Shockers fans, hardly the most patient in the world, will likely cut one of their own more slack than they gave his predecessors.

SHOCKERS DATA

Coach: Randy Smithson (1st year).
1995-96 record: 8-21. MVC: 4-14/T10th.
Starters lost (2): Larry Callis, F (9.2 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.2 bpg, 49.5 FG%, 57.9 FT%, 30.9 mpg); Melvin McKey, G (8.2 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 5.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 33.8 mpg; transfer/Cleveland State).
Others lost: Greg Bryant, G (12.1 mpg; transfer); Terrance Flowers, G (15.6 mpg; transfer/Indiana, Pa.); Ryan Herrs, F/G (6.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 36.6 3-pt%, 19.1 mpg); Jon Kleidon, F (12.7 mpg; transfer/Buffalo); Matt Schultz, G; Jerry Stewart, F (quit team); Chad Williams, F (7.3 mpg; transfer).
Starters returning (3): Carter Arnett, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.6 apg, 26.5 mpg); Darin Miller, F, 6-9/Sr. (9.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 49.6 FG%, 79.2 FT%, 43.3 3-pt%, 20.4 mpg); Marvin Hill, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 25.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Jamie Arnold, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 74.4 FT%, 15.3 mpg); James Bunch, F, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Dwayne Anthony, G, 6-1/Fr.; L.J. Goolsby, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Mississippi); Terry Hankton, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Carl Lemons, G, 6-2/Fr.; Roosevelt Overstreet, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jason Perez, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ty Rhodes, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC);

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Darrin Williams, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: 1983.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Wichita, Kan. **Home court:** Levitt Arena (10,656).

10. INDIANA STATE

Frontcourt: Jim Cruse rebounds the old-fashioned way—he works harder than anyone in the league at going to the glass. Cruse stands just 6-4 and possesses average jumping skills. But he became the smallest player in league history to lead the Valley in rebounding when he averaged 9.0 a game. Derrick Stroud, who started all 26 games last season at center, compensates for his lack of height with outstanding quickness. Streak-shooting Jayson Wells led the Sycamores in 3-point shooting while starting at the other forward spot. Carl Reeder provided some quality minutes a year ago, but overall depth is a concern. Freshman Billy Spraul is expected to get a look.

Backcourt: The Sycamores must replace Cory DeGroote, a plugger who played hard hard and led Indiana State in scoring last season. Leading candidates to replace DeGroote are swingman Jason Cooper and a pair of recruits—JC transfer Chad Adkins, a big scorer, and 6-5 freshman Nate Green. Sometimes-spectacular Nick Hargrove has the talent to be a solid guard but needs to develop consistency. Hargrove finished behind DeGroote and Cruse in scoring but led the Sycamores in assists with 122. Hargrove became the first Sycamore to record more than 100 assists since Jeff McComb in 1987. Indiana transfer Steve Hart brings a lot of athleticism and defensive prowess.

Key to success: Finding help for Cruse up front.

Outlook: The Sycamores made progress in coach Sherman Dillard's second season, improving overall and league records by three wins. Continued improvement could be difficult as the talent remains average at best. Indiana State did make solid improvements in two critical areas last season—rebounding and protecting the ball. The Sycamores' rebounding average of 36.9 was the highest since the 1979 club averaged 48.2. Indiana State also cut its turnovers to an average of 15.8 per game, fewest since 1992.

SYCAMORES DATA

Coach: Sherman Dillard (17-35, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 10-16. MVC: 6-12/9th.
Starters lost (1): Cory DeGroote, G (12.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 2.6 apg, 81.2 FT%, 32.7 mpg).
Others lost: Jamiri Francis, G (left school); Rick Griffin, F (5.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 16.4 mpg; left school); Gabe Nix, F (1.5 mpg); Aaron Williams, F (7.7 mpg; left school).
Starters returning (4): Jim Cruse, F, 6-4/Sr. (11.9 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 49.3 FG%, 70.4 FT%, 36.1 3-pt%, 32.1 mpg); Nick Hargrove, G, 5-10/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.7 apg, 34.8 mpg); Derrick Stroud, C/F, 6-7/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 22.4 mpg); Jayson Wells, F/G, 6-6/Jr. (10.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 70.6 FT%, 24.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Jason Cooper, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (8.3 mpg); Jon Luchetti, C/F, 6-7/Soph. (10.4 mpg); Carl Reeder, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 21.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chad Adkins, G, 6-3/Soph. (JC); Ben Anderson, F/C, 6-6/Fr.; Nate Green, G, 6-5/Fr.; Steve Hart, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Indiana); Billy Spraul, F, 6-8/Fr.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Terre Haute, Ind. **Home court:** Hulman Center (10,200). ◆

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Ascending: Southwest Missouri State. Steve Alford was hired to get the Bears back on the winning track and to pump some enthusiasm back into the fans. Alford accomplished both in his first season in Springfield. Alford has the fans in Springfield excited about men's basketball again, and they in turn make a visit to the Hammons Student Center one of the toughest stops on the Valley circuit. A solid group of newcomers combined with seven returning players puts Southwest at the top of the list of teams that should challenge Illinois State for this season's title.

Descending: Southern Illinois. The good news in Carbondale is that the Salukis won't miss out on a trip to St. Louis for the conference tournament, as they did a year ago when they lost 12 of their final 14 games. The bad news is that Southern Illinois might not be much better than it was a year ago, meaning any trip to St. Louis might be a short one.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Bradley point guard Billy Wright's. The Braves went from chumps to champs in Wright's four seasons of running the show in Peoria. Robert Dye, a 6-1 freshman, is the heir apparent, but coach Jim Molinari says he won't rush him. Instead, look for Aaron Zobrist, Kerry Burrell and swingman Anthony Parker to help out until Dye gets comfortable at the point.

Most underrated player: Indiana State forward Jim Cruse. Cruse lacks flash and polish, but few players in the league get more from their talent. Not a great jumper and standing just 6-4, Cruse led the league in rebounding last season. Sycamores coach Sherman Dillard calls Cruse the hardest-working player in the league.

Most overrated player: Southern Illinois guard Troy Hudson. He scored a ton of points last season but would have put some mind-boggling statistics together had he been able to hit half of his shots. Instead, Hudson missed 280 of his 459 shots and made only 93 of his 247 3-point attempts. Expect coach Rich Herrin to preach the gospel of shot selection to Hudson.

Coach on the hot seat: Northern Iowa's Eldon Miller. The Panthers' improvement from 8-20 in 1994-95 to 14-13 last season didn't satisfy everyone in Cedar Falls. Insiders say Miller was asked to resign after the season, but he refused and was allowed to keep his position. If the Panthers don't meet high expectations this season, don't expect a second reprieve for Miller.

Best bets: The league will miss Tulsa. The Golden Hurricane, with their back-to-back trips to the 1994 and 1995 NCAA Sweet Sixteens, have been the league's most visible and successful team in recent seasons. But Tulsa packed up and headed for the Western Athletic Conference, leaving a big hole in the Valley's power index. Bradley coach Jim Molinari: "Tulsa brought a lot to the league, but I think we'll get to a point where we'll be just as strong." ... In spite of Tulsa's departure, the Valley should advance two teams to the NCAA Tournament and a couple more to the NIT. "This is the most balanced the league has been since I've been in it," Illinois State coach Kevin Stallings said. "Legitimately, I see six to eight teams capable of finishing in the upper division"

Odds and ends: Creighton lost top recruit Ben Walker when the point guard from Milwaukee failed to meet NCAA qualifying standards. Bluejays coach Dana Altman said Walker hopes to take the qualifying test again this fall, then enroll for the winter semester. The 6-2 Walker, recruited by numerous Big Ten schools as a running back in football, had been expected to back up senior point guard Edward St. Fleur. ... Illinois State reserve forward Kenneth Pierson, an art major, has drawn the covers for the past two ISU media guides. ... Evansville will be the first Valley team since 1992 to play in the preseason NIT. The Aces host Drexel in a first-round home game November 20. Indiana State was the league's last representative in the preseason tournament. ... Stallings, on having no seniors on an Illinois State team picked to win the league: "I think the teams that generally win big are teams that have seniors who are playing at the best of their careers. At the same time, we have quite a few guys who have a lot of experience. We're not going to be the most experienced team in the league, but our kids have already shown that it's not the class you're in, it's how you play on the court." ... Southern Illinois coach Rich Herrin will be looking for some tougher play from his front-line players. "I had no problems with Scott Burzynski and Aminu Timberlake," Herrin said of last season's senior frontcourt starters. "They were nice young men, but maybe they were too nice to play this game." ◆

—STEVE PIVOVAR

RANKING THE RECRUITING

Top recruit in parentheses

1. SW Missouri State (G Kevin Ault). The Bears got the big man they needed in transfer Danny Moore, along with Ault, Indiana's "Mr. Basketball" last season.
2. Northern Iowa (F Mike Parks).
3. Southern Illinois (F/G Rashad Tucker).
4. Bradley (F Ed Cage).
5. Illinois State (G Skipp Schaefbauer).
6. Wichita State (F Darrin Williams).
7. Indiana State (F/C Ben Anderson).
8. Evansville (G John Risinger).
9. Drake (G Armand LeVasseur).
10. Creighton (F Justin Haynes).

MID-AMERICAN

Conference Rank: 11

By Doug Zaleski

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MIAMI OF OHIO
2. EASTERN MICHIGAN
3. BALL STATE
4. OHIO UNIVERSITY
5. BOWLING GREEN
6. WESTERN MICHIGAN
7. KENT
8. CENTRAL MICHIGAN
9. TOLEDO
10. AKRON

ALL-MAC TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	EARL BOYKINS, Eastern Michigan	5-7/140	Jr.
F	DEVIN DAVIS, Miami	6-7/215	Sr.
G	GENO FORD, Ohio	5-8/160	Sr.
F	BONZI WELLS, Ball State	6-5/200	Jr.
F	CURTIS SIMMONS, Ohio	6-4/215	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	ANTONIO DANIELS, Bowling Green	6-4/185	Sr.
G	DAMON FRIERSON, Miami	6-4/190	Soph.
F	CHARLES MACON, C. Michigan	6-6/245	Sr.
C	CASEY SHAW, Toledo	6-10/235	Jr.
F	ANTHONY STACEY, Bowling Green	6-4/225	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BONZI WELLS
F, Ball State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

NATE SCHINDEWOLF, G, Miami

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Aaron Brown, Central Michigan.

Best rebounder: Devin Davis, Miami.

Best playmaker: Earl Boykins, Eastern Michigan.

Best defender: Earl Boykins, Eastern Michigan.

Best leaper: Bonzi Wells, Ball State.

Best under 6 foot: Earl Boykins, Eastern Michigan.

Best over 7 foot: Nate Huffman, Central Michigan.

Most versatile: Antonio Daniels, Bowling Green.

Most flamboyant: Devin Davis, Miami.

Best NBA prospect: Bonzi Wells, Ball State.

1. MIAMI OF OHIO

Coach: Charlie Coles (1st year; 92-84 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-8. MAC: 12-6/3rd. Lost to Fresno State in NIT first round.
Starters lost (3): Kevin Beard, C (6.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.7 bpg, 23.3 mpg); Landon Hackim, G (13.3 ppg, 1.2 spg, **87.2 FT%**, 44.8 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg); Chris McGuire, G (4.7 ppg, 3.0 apg, 73.1 3-pt%, 25.6 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Devin Davis, F, 6-7/Sr. (17.8 ppg, **9.9 rpg**, 1.1 spg, 48.7 FG%, 30.8 mpg); Damon Frierson, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (11.1 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 84.2 FT%, 44.1 3-pt%, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Chad Allen, C, 7-0/Jr. (RS/foot); Kenneth Bozeman, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.4 mpg); Jermaine Henderson, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 41.8 3-pt%, 17.0 mpg); Doug Johnson, F, 6-5/Soph.; Kyle Johnson, F, 6-4/Sr. (RS/back); Rob Mestas, G, 5-10/Soph. (8.8 mpg); Ira Newble, C/F, 6-6/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 48.3 FG%, 15.6 mpg); Andy Plum, G, 5-11/Sr.; Wally Szczerbiak, F/G, 6-6/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 46.8 3-pt%, 17.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Nate Schindewolf, G, 6-4/Fr.; Anthony Taylor, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS).
Strengths: Devin Davis is the top power player in the MAC. He is within reach of becoming the third player in school history with 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. Damon Frierson is so versatile he can play point guard, shooting guard and small forward. Wally Szczerbiak is one of the MAC's best shooters. Freshman Nate Schindewolf comes with lots of hype.
Weaknesses: The Redskins must develop depth to replace three players who averaged at least 23 minutes last season.
Outlook: The Redskins return four of their top five scorers. The big question is how they will adapt to new coach Charlie Coles, who took over when Herb Sendek left for N.C. State.
Last league title: 1995.
Last time made NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Oxford, Ohio. **Home court:** Millett Hall (9,200).

2. EASTERN MICHIGAN

Coach: Ben Braun (185-132, 11 years; 333-235 overall, 19 years; 3-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 25-6. MAC: 14-4/1st. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA Southeast second round.
Starters lost (2): Brian Tolbert, G (20.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 3.0 apg, 2.1 spg, 47.6 FG%, 85.0 FT%, 38.7 3-pt%, 34.0 mpg); Theron Wilson, C (11.4 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.8 bpg, 51.8 FG%, 76.9 FT%, 26.0 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): Earl Boykins, G, 5-7/Jr. (15.5 ppg, **5.8 apg**, 1.9 spg, 80.4 FT%, 33.0 mpg); Derrick Dial, F, 6-4/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 2.0 apg, 48.5 FG%, 70.0 FT%, 37.0 3-pt%, 29.0 mpg); James Head, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.6 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 55.1 FG%, 24.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Todd Beeten, G, 6-2/Soph.; Timi Berkovitch, G, 6-4/Jr. (40.0 3-pt%, 8.0 mpg); Charlie Eibeler, G, 6-4/Soph.; Nkechi Ezuqwu, C/F, 6-7/Jr. (3.5 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 12.0 mpg); Torrey Mills, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 55.8 FG%, 15.0 mpg); Mick Pennisi, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (8.0 mpg); Jon Zajac, F, 6-7/Jr. (3.1 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 12.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dionte Blevins, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Cory Tarrent, F, 6-4/Fr.
Strengths: Diminutive Earl Boykins gives every MAC team trouble because of his extraordinary quickness. Derrick Dial and James Head have been steady starters, and Torrey Mills (brother of NBA player Terry) provides a boost off the bench.
Weaknesses: The Eagles weren't particularly effective from the 3-point line last year (35.5 percent), and they lost their top outside threat in Brian Tolbert.
Outlook: The loss of Tolbert and 6-9 center Theron Wilson will be tough to overcome, but this team is far from destitute. With eight of their top 10 players returning, the Eagles will have a strong say in the outcome of the title race. Coach Ben Braun was considered the likely choice for the California coaching job as this magazine went to press in mid-September.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Ypsilanti, Mich. **Home court:** Bowen Field House (5,600).

3. BALL STATE

Coach: Ray McCallum (51-35, 3 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-12. MAC: 11-7/T4th.
Starters lost (1): Marcus Norris, G (10.4 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.9 spg, 26.5 mpg).
Others lost: LaSalle Thompson, G (12.1 ppg, 2.4 apg, 78.8 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 25.6 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Robert Martin, C, 6-10/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 20.6 mpg); Marcus Mason, F, 6-5/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 70.2 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 22.8 mpg); Bonzi Wells, F, 6-5/Jr. (**25.4 ppg**, 8.8 rpg, 2.9 apg, **3.1 spg**, 1.2 bpg, 49.4 FG%, 70.8 FT%, 32.5 mpg); Randy Zachary, G, 5-10/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 2.6 apg, 80.5 FT%, 25.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Doug Clark, F, 6-4/Jr.; Wayne Johnson, F, 6-7/Soph. (14.1 mpg); Tim Ray, G, 5-10/Sr.; Ryan Reed, C, 6-9/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 20.9 mpg); Charles Smith, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.4 mpg); Steve Smith, C, 6-7/Jr.
Top newcomers: Duane Clemens, G, 6-0/Fr.; Jerome Davis, F, 6-5/Fr.; Mitch Hankins, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Mickey Hosier, G, 5-11/Fr.; R.J. Williams, G, 6-3/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Bonzi Wells was the MAC Player of the Year and he'll be put in a position to excel again as the scoring and rebounding leader of the Cardinals. Marcus Mason showed signs of blooming in the last half of his sophomore season.
Weaknesses: The loss of guards Marcus Norris and LaSalle Thompson means shooting and scoring from the off-guard spot is iffy. Don't be surprised if Wells plays more guard.
Outlook: JC transfer Mitch Hankins may improve a shaky interior. If he can be a positive factor, the Cardinals should challenge for the title. Look for point guard R.J. Williams, a Prop 48 last season, to provide a boost in the backcourt.
Last league title: 1993 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Muncie, Ind. **Home court:** University Arena (11,500).

4. OHIO UNIVERSITY

Coach: Larry Hunter (125-83, 7 years; 430-159 overall, 20 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-14. MAC: 11-7/T4th.
Starters lost (1): Jason Terry, C (12.1 ppg, 6.2 rpg, **3.0 bpg**, 56.5 FG%, 29.1 mpg).
Others lost: Gus Johnson, G (6.6 ppg, 79.2 FT%, 24.6 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Geno Ford, G, 5-8/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.4 apg, 80.4 FT%, 36.4 mpg); Paul Morris, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 52.8 FG%, 23.2 mpg); Corey Reed, 5-10/Soph. (2.2 apg, 1.1 spg, 17.8 mpg); Curtis Simmons, F, 6-5/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 1.3 bpg, 54.7 FG%, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Basra Fakhir, F, 6-5/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 54.5 FG%, 19.7 mpg); Diante Flenorl, F, 6-8/Soph. (12.3 mpg); Andy Kanzig, C, 6-10/Soph.; Jim Peterson, F, 6-5/Jr.; Ed Sears, C, 6-9/Sr. (RS); Damion Washington, G, 6-4/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 13.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jason Grunkemeyer, G, 6-5/Fr.; Matt Jager, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS/ankle).
Strengths: Savvy Geno Ford might be the grittiest player in the league. He's a streaky shooter, but you always can count on his competitive fire burning. Curtis Simmons gives the Bobcats some muscle and strength inside.
Weaknesses: The Bobcats haven't found an answer for their 3-point shooting woes. They also had one of the least-productive benches in the conference.
Outlook: The starting unit looks solid, especially with Ed Sears at center. Sears redshirted last season and is ready to put his 6-9, 270-pound frame to work. If the Bobcats shoot better and make better decisions, they can win the MAC title.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time made NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Athens, Ohio. **Home court:** Convocation Center (13,000).

5. BOWLING GREEN

Coach: Jim Larranaga (148-134, 10 years; 176-159 overall, 12 years).
1995-96 record: 14-13. MAC: 9-9/T6th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Shane Komives, F (7.2 ppg, 74.2 FT%, 24.4 mpg); Josh Wittensoldner, G (8.5 mpg; transfer/Kent); Mike Cavey, C (transfer/Wittenberg).
Starters returning (4): Antonio Daniels, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.0 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 5.9 apg, 1.8 spg, 47.8 FG%, 72.3 FT%, 36.9 mpg); Jay Larranaga, G, 6-5/Sr. (15.5 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 42.1 3-pt%, 35.9 mpg); Dayon Ninkovic, C, 6-9/Jr. (7.0 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 47.1 FG%, 74.5 FT%, 24.0 mpg); Anthony Stacey, F, 6-4/Soph. (16.0 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 49.4 FG%, 71.6 FT%, 36.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Howard Chambers, G, 5-6/Soph. (11.7 mpg); Kirk Cowan, F, 6-7/Soph. (3.3 rpg, 15.4 mpg); Javier Crespo, F, 6-8/Soph.; Jake Holmes, C, 6-10/Soph. (2.6 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 14.5 mpg); DeMar Moore, G, 6-1/Soph. (9.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.9 spg, 46.0 FG%, 55.6 3-pt%, 22.6 mpg); Tony Reid, G, 6-3/Soph. (RS/academics); Koen Rouwhorst, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dave Esterkamp, F, 6-7/Fr.; Phillip Murray, C, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: Point guard Antonio Daniels and off-guard Jay Larranaga are one of the best combos in the MAC. Anthony Stacey won MAC Freshman of the Year honors with a Charles Barkley-like game. The Falcons have the flexibility to play with a tall lineup or a smaller one.
Weaknesses: The offense was lethargic at times last season, but a defense that is expected to be strong should give the

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

offense a running start. Poor free-throw shooting contributed to a 2-4 mark in games decided by four points or less.
Outlook: With four starters back and four more players who averaged more than 10 minutes, the Falcons are optimistic they can make a run for the title. But we've heard that before.
Last league title: 1983.
Last time made NCAA field: 1968.
Site: Bowling Green, Ohio. **Home court:** Anderson Arena (5,000).

6. WESTERN MICHIGAN

Coach: Bob Donewald (95-100, 7 years; 303-221 overall, 18 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-12. MAC: 13-5/2nd.
Starters lost (1): Ben Handlogten, C (15.7 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.4 spg, 1.6 bpg, **59.9 FG%**, 31.3 mpg).
Others lost: Brent Mackowiak, G (10.4 mpg; quit team).
Starters returning (4): Jason Black, G, 6-2/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 82.2 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 31.7 mpg); Joel Burns, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 83.8 FT%, 35.5 3-pt%, 31.3 mpg); Russ DesErmia, F, 6-9/Soph. (7.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 60.5 FG%, 24.4 mpg); Saddi Washington, F/G, 6-3/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 1.5 spg, 46.8 FG%, 70.2 FT%, 25.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Black, F, 6-6/Soph.; Taron Burgess, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.3 mpg); Rashod Johnson, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 46.5 FG%, 17.0 mpg); Aaron Toothman, F, 6-7/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 2.1 apg, 24.8 mpg); Raymond Waits, F, 6-5/Soph. (7.3 mpg); Salatha Willis, G, 6-4/Jr.
Top newcomers: Grahame Cummins, C, 6-11/Fr. (RS); Les Howard, F/G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Jason Kimbrough, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Iowa State); Brad Van Timmeren, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS).
Strengths: The group of guards ranks as one of the best in the MAC, with two-year starters Jason Black and Joel Burns leading the way. The guard position will be strengthened by the addition of Jason Kimbrough, a transfer from Iowa State.
Weaknesses: Frontcourt play, sporadic a year ago, will be hurt by the loss of Ben Handlogten, the best player up front. Handlogten's rebounding presence will be sorely missed.
Outlook: Though the Broncos' perimeter game is strong, teams that hold the upper hand in the MAC are effective inside. It's time for young frontcourt players to step forward.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1976.
Site: Kalamazoo, Mich. **Home court:** University Arena (5,800).

7. KENT

Coach: Gary Waters (1st year).
1995-96 record: 14-13. MAC: 8-10/8th.
Starters lost (2): Nate Reinking, G (18.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 3.1 apg, 79.5 FT%, 42.8 3-pt%, 34.8 mpg); Bill Davis, F (7.7 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 50.8 FG%, 19.5 mpg).
Others lost: JShawn McKenzie, F (5.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 16.4 mpg); Joe Taylor, G; Tom West, F (2.1 rpg, 12.0 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Brook Bright, C, 6-11/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 45.6 FG%, 82.5 FT%, 22.6 mpg); Ed Norvell, G, 6-2/Soph. (10.7 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.5 spg, 72.5 FT%, 31.7 mpg); Art Robinson, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 71.4 FT%, 21.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Ben Baaken, C, 6-9/Soph.; D.J. Bosse, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 45.9 FG%, 82.9 FT%, 40.2 3-pt%, 23.9 mpg); Scott Effertz, G, 6-0/Soph. (15.6 mpg); Craig Glenn, G, 6-3/Sr.
Top newcomers: Kyrem Massey, G, 6-6/Fr.; Nate Meers, G, 6-3/Fr.; Al Moore, F, 6-7/Fr.; Pete Paule, G, 6-3/Fr.; Damien Thompson, G, 6-0/Fr.; Geoff Vaughn, F, 6-6/Fr.; John Whorten, C, 6-8/Fr.
Strengths: D.J. Bosse creates problems for many MAC teams because, at 6-8, he likes to shoot from beyond the 3-point line. Brook Bright is one of the top shot blockers in the conference. Ed Norvell is a budding standout at point guard.
Weaknesses: The Golden Flashes have to get tougher on defense. Depth will be a problem with seven freshmen and three sophomores on the roster.
Outlook: Kent is coming off its first winning mark since 1989-90, but it wasn't enough to save Dave Grube's job. New coach Gary Waters must build on the improvement.
Last league title: None.
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Kent, Ohio. **Home court:** Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center (6,327).

8. CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Coach: Leonard Drake (14-64, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 6-20. MAC: 3-15/9th.
Starters lost (1): Thomas Kilgore, G (13.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.9 apg, 71.6 FT%, 31.2 mpg; transfer/Eastern Michigan).
Others lost: Vince Edwards, G (5.1 ppg, 18.7 mpg; transfer/Western Kentucky); Mike Walker, F (13.6 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Aaron Brown, F, 6-8/Soph. (9.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 45.2 FG%, **49.0 3-pt%**, 22.0 mpg); Nate Huffman, C, 7-1/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 58.5 FG%, 76.6 FT%, 26.6 mpg); Ryan Jansen, G, 6-0/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.0 apg, 79.5 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 30.6 mpg); Charles Macon, F, 6-6/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.7 bpg, 46.2 FG%, 35.1 3-pt%, 34.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Kenny Drake, G, 6-2/Sr.; Curtis Gilleylen, C, 6-9/Soph.; Chad Guelda, F, 6-6/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 20.4 mpg); Bill Slack, G, 6-2/Sr. (46.7 FG%, 14.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tony Buckner, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Phoeron Scott, F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Wilson, G, 6-1/Fr.
Strengths: Nate Huffman and Charles Macon, the key players on a good front line, need more consistency. Aaron Brown was the nation's fourth-best 3-point shooter last season.
Weaknesses: Team chemistry is at ground zero after a couple of arguments divided the locker room last season. The guards are a real question mark.
Outlook: After finishing ninth or 10th in each of the past four seasons, the Chippewas would settle for eighth and the final spot in the MAC Tournament.
Last league title: 1987.
Last time made NCAA field: 1987.
Site: Mt. Pleasant, Mich. **Home court:** Rose Arena (5,200).

9. TOLEDO

Coach: Stan Joplin (1st year).
1995-96 record: 18-14. MAC: 9-9/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Kevin Baker, F (10.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 53.4 FG%, 74.9 FT%, 30.2 mpg); Bobby Krahulik, G (7.6 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 2.4 apg, 90.3 FT%, 37.8 3-pt%, 27.7 mpg); Craig Thames, G (21.8 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 4.0 apg, 2.0 spg, 49.0 FG%, 84.9 FT%, 40.4 3-pt%, 36.0 mpg).
Others lost: Joe Gardner, G; Darell Sizemore, F.
Starters returning (2): Brett Fedak, F, 6-7/Soph. (5.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 75.0 FT%, 22.9 mpg); Casey Shaw, C, 6-11/Jr. (14.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 32.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Gladieux, G, 6-5/Soph. (4.9 ppg, 85.7 FT%, 43.6 3-pt%, 14.4 mpg); Steve Griffin, F, 6-7/Sr.; Joel Howard, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 54.5 FG%, 17.9 mpg); Robert Kizer, G, 6-4/Soph. (18.5 mpg); Aaron Stumpf, F, 6-5/Soph.
Top newcomers: Ryan Berg, G, 6-2/Fr.; Clayton Burch, G, 5-11/Fr.; Chad Kamstra, G, 6-0/Fr.; Craig Rodgers, C, 6-10/Fr.
Strengths: Casey Shaw is emerging as one of the best big men in the conference, but he has to show more consistency on both ends of the floor. Joel Howard could be primed for a solid season.
Weaknesses: The Rockets lack a presence from the 3-point line, putting additional pressure on Matt Gladieux. The defense needs a kick in the pants. Only two players have more than one year of playing experience.
Outlook: After losing both starting guards, the Rockets are going with a freshman (Chad Kamstra or Clayton Burch) at the point and a sophomore (Gladieux or Robert Kizer) at off-guard. That's not the easiest route to a first-division finish.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1980.
Site: Toledo, Ohio. **Home court:** Savage Hall (9,000).

10. AKRON

Coach: Dan Hipsher (3-23, 1 year; 129-68 overall, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 3-23. MAC: 0-18/10th.
Starters lost (1): Jarvis Catron, F (5.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 20.8 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (4): Ryan Andrick, G, 6-7/Soph. (6.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 21.3 mpg); Scott Gooden, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.5 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 73.7 FT%, 23.1 mpg); Ali Kart, G, 6-3/Soph. (9.3 ppg, 2.3 apg, 75.3 FT%, 28.4 mpg); George Phillips, F, 6-6/Soph. (9.8 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 31.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Jawanza Moore, F, 6-5/Soph. (4.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 15.6 mpg); David Tillis, G, 6-1/Soph. (6.7 ppg, 37.6 3-pt%, 19.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jimmal Ball, G, 5-10/Fr.; Adam Benton, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Providence); Rubin Conway, F, 6-5/Fr.; Chris Hahn, F, 6-7/Fr.; Scott Hample, C, 6-11/Fr.; Chad Minor, F, 6-7/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Guard Adam Benton, a Providence transfer, should have an immediate impact. George Phillips led the team in scoring and rebounding as a freshman last year. Incoming freshman Jimmal Ball should get an early chance.
Weaknesses: There is no proven talent on the front line. The Zips have no seniors and one junior.
Outlook: More rebuilding is in store. The Zips haven't qualified for the MAC Tournament as one of the top eight regular-season teams since they joined the league in 1993-94.
Last league title: 1986 (tie, OVC).
Last time made NCAA field: 1986.
Site: Akron, Ohio. **Home court:** Rhodes Arena (5,500). ◆

Doug Zaleski is a sportswriter for the Muncie (Ind.) Evening Press.

SCOUTING THE MID-AMERICAN

Ascending: Bowling Green is 24-21 in its past 45 MAC regular-season games. With a wealth of talent at several positions, this should be a turnaround year.
Descending: Despite a reasonable talent base, Toledo has finished fifth in the MAC each of the past three years. Be ready for a tumble into the second division.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Toledo guard Craig Thames'. Matt Gladieux or Robert Kizer will fill the position, but nobody can provide the scoring, rebounding and playmaking that Thames gave the Rockets.
Most underrated player: Eastern Michigan forward Derrick Dial. He played in the shadow of more recognizable teammates, but his solid numbers (13.7 points and 5.7 rebounds while starting 30 of 31 games) were a big reason for the Eagles' 1996 MAC title.
Most overrated player: Central Michigan forward Charles Macon. He was the 1992 "Mr. Basketball" in Indiana and a Big Ten player at Ohio State. He was expected to lead Central Michigan into the MAC postseason tournament, but the Chippewas finished ninth with a 3-15 league record. Macon has to find a way to make his teammates better.
Best recruiting class: Ball State. The Cardinals filled a pressing need with 6-8 forward Mitch Hankins, a junior college transfer. Freshman point guard Mickey Hosier was an Indiana All-Star. Guard Duane Clemens and forward Jerome Davis, a pair of freshmen, should be able to help in reserve roles this season. This group would have been even better had swingman LaMont Roland been eligible.
Coach on the hot seat: Central Michigan's Leonard Drake. His return to his alma mater, where he was one of the Chippewas' all-time great players, three years ago was a match made in heaven. But after three consecutive 20-loss seasons, an overall record of 14-64 and MAC finishes of ninth place twice and 10th once, fans want to see improvement.
Odds and ends: Because of a scheduling mixup, MAC teams ended up with four games in the span of a week in mid-January instead of the usual three. Teams were allowed to change the date of one of those games and move it to December. As a result, the first conference game is Western Michigan at Ball State on December 5, a month earlier than the customary opening date. ... Half of the MAC's 10 coaches are working at their alma mater: Ray McCallum at Ball State, Leonard Drake at Central Michigan, Charlie Coles at Miami, Larry Hunter at Ohio and Stan Joplin at Toledo. ... Thomas Kilgore, who averaged 18.9 points as a freshman at Central Michigan in 1994-95, has transferred to Eastern Michigan. He will have two seasons of eligibility beginning next season. ◆

—DOUG ZALESKI

METRO ATLANTIC

Conference Rank: 12

By Mike Harrington

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. LOYOLA (MD.)
2. FAIRFIELD
3. NIAGARA
4. IONA
5. CANISIUS
6. MANHATTAN
7. SIENA
8. ST. PETER'S

ALL-MAAC TEAM

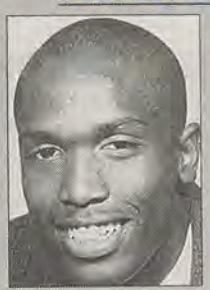
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	SHANNON BOWMAN, Fairfield	6-4/235	Sr.
G	GREG FRANCIS, Fairfield	6-3/185	Sr.
F	BRYAN MATTHEW, Iona	6-5/205	Sr.
G	MIKE POWELL, Loyola (Md.)	6-2/180	Jr.
F	CHRIS WATSON, Niagara	6-7/200	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	NSILO ABRAHAM, Loyola (Md.)	6-6/230	Soph.
F	JASON HOOVER, Manhattan	6-5/215	Sr.
G	SHANE MILLER, Fairfield	6-5/200	Jr.
G	JAVONE MOORE, Canisius	5-11/175	Sr.
F	MINDAUGUS TIMINSKAS, Iona	6-7/220	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



MIKE POWELL
G, Loyola (Md.)

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

TARIQ KIRKSAY, G, Iona

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Shane Miller, Fairfield.

Best rebounder: Jason Hoover, Manhattan.

Best playmaker: Javone Moore, Canisius.

Best defender: Kevin Thompson, Canisius.

Best leaper: Anthony Smith, Loyola (Md.).

Best under 6 foot: Kyle Commodore, Fairfield.

Best over 7 foot: Bas de Voogd, St. Peter's.

Most versatile: Bryan Matthew, Iona.

Most flamboyant: Chris Watson, Niagara.

Best NBA prospect: Mike Powell, Loyola (Md.).

1. LOYOLA (MD.)

Coach: Brian Ellerbe (21-33, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. MAAC: 8-6/4th.
Starters lost (1): Teron Owens, G (10.7 ppg, 3.8rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.5 spg, 45.4 FG%, 82.4 FT%, 38.6 3-pt%, 28.9 mpg).
Others lost: Julian Tate, F (2.3 rpg, 15.0 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Nsilo Abraham, F, 6-6/Soph. (8.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 26.7 mpg); Roderick Platt, C, 6-10/Soph. (5.1 rpg, 25.0 mpg); Mike Powell, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 4.2 apg, **1.2 spg**, 75.6 FT%, 35.8 mpg); Anthony Smith, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.7 spg, 1.3 bpg, 48.0 FG%, 32.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Milt Williams, G, 6-0/Sr. (18.9 mpg); Lamar Butler, C, 6-10/Soph.; Duane Johnson, C, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Erik Cooper, F, 6-6/Fr.; Blanchard Hurd, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS/knee); Darren Kelly, G, 6-5/Fr.; Jason Rowe, G, 5-10/Fr.
Strengths: Mike Powell is the MAAC's top returning all-around threat. After transferring from Virginia, he had a spectacular season last year, leading the conference in steals and finishing second in assists and scoring. A rise into the MAAC's upper echelon for Brian Ellerbe's club will be dependent on Powell. The frontcourt, led by MAAC Rookie of the Year Nsilo Abraham, is one of the conference's deepest. It will be even stronger if Roderick Platt, Duane Johnson and Blanchard Hurd return from injuries that caused them to miss substantial time last year.
Weaknesses: Inexperience will be paramount among Ellerbe's concerns, with eight players either freshman or sophomores. One of the keys will be finding a replacement for guard Teron Owens, last year's lone senior. Milt Williams will have to pick up some of the slack, with freshmen Darren Kelly and Jason Rowe also likely to contribute. Rowe finished his high school career in Buffalo as the only player in New York history with 2,000 points and 1,000 assists. The MAAC's worst free-throw shooting (63.3 percent) hurt the Greyhounds last year, as they lost eight games by seven points or less.
Outlook: Ellerbe's recruiting surge drew raves last season, with many observers saying the Greyhounds were a year away. "Next year" is now. If it can avoid the injury bug, Loyola should be able to duplicate its 1994 run to the NCAAs.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Reitz Arena (3,000).

2. FAIRFIELD

Coach: Paul Cormier (63-77, 5 years; 150-172 overall, 12 years).
1995-96 record: 20-10. MAAC: 10-4/T1st. Lost to Providence in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Eliezer Cohen, C (4.3 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 15.0 mpg; returned to Israel); Meishay Gattis, G (20.4 mpg).
Others lost: Sean Clarke, F (5.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 51.8 FG%, 75.5 FT%, 17.4 mpg); Aaron Seymour, F.
Starters returning (3): Shannon Bowman, F, 6-4/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.2 spg, **52.2 FG%**, 75.6 FT%, 32.1 mpg); Greg Francis, G, 6-3/Sr. (16.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.0 spg, 70.7 FT%, 38.6 3-pt%, 34.5 mpg); Shane Miller, F, 6-5/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 51.0 FG%, **84.2 FT%**, 46.7 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Didier Boucard, G, 6-4/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 14.6 mpg); Kyle Commodore, G, 5-11/Soph. (8.5 ppg, 3.7 apg, 1.4 spg, 80.8 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 21.8 mpg); Mike Horan, C, 6-8/Soph. (2.6 rpg, 12.4 mpg); Brandon Jubrey, G, 6-3/Jr.; Chris Pultz, G, 6-3/Sr.; Peter Van Rij, C, 6-9/Soph.; Brent Wall, G, 6-2/Jr.
Top newcomers: Andy Buzbee, F, 6-6/Fr.; John Tice, G, 6-4/Fr.
Strengths: Three players who started at least 22 games return from a club that earned its first postseason berth in nine years. Greg Francis and inside force Shannon Bowman, both 30-game starters, will provide senior leadership. Bowman has shot better than 52 percent from the field each of the past three years. Shane Miller is a deadly 3-point shooter with NBA range. The Stags' offense consistently finds good shots, both inside and out.
Weaknesses: With Bowman being the only concern, opponents often can exploit a soft interior. Turnovers can be a problem, as the Stags were seventh in turnover margin last year. They were ahead of only Manhattan, which started two first-year guards much of the season.
Outlook: In Francis, Bowman and Miller, Fairfield has the conference's best returning trio. But there may not be enough depth to get the Stags through the three-day grind of a conference tournament. Nonetheless, another NIT bid could be in the offing, and back-to-back trips to the postseason would be a huge accomplishment after eight consecutive losing seasons.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Fairfield, Conn. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (2,479).

3. NIAGARA

Coach: Jack Armstrong (75-124, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 13-15. MAAC: 6-8/6th.
Starters lost (1): Ronnell Felton, G, 6-2/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.1 spg, 71.8 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 26.1 mpg; diagnosed with leukemia).
Others lost: Jon Dubler, F; Jeremy Fife, G, (2.4 apg, 14.5 mpg, transfer/Grand Valley, Mich., State); Luteke Kalombo, F (6.4 ppg, 50.4 FG%, 79.5 FT%, 15.5 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Brent Beamer, F, 6-5/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 40.2 3-pt%, 25.6 mpg); Kevin Jobity, C, 6-10/Soph. (5.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 17.9 mpg); Jeremiah Johnson, G, 6-1/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.0 spg, 76.5 FT%, 16.0 mpg); Chris Watson, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.4 spg, 49.3 FG%, 30.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Hassan Abdullah, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (9.1 mpg); Pat McNamara, F, 6-5/Soph. (6.6 mpg); Jeff O'Connor, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 21.8 mpg); Akbar Waheed, G, 6-3/Soph. (9.8 mpg); Jermaine Young, C, 6-9/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 55.8 FG%, 18.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Nate Bernosky, G/F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Luke Dobrich, G, 6-2/Fr.; Calvin Murphy Jr., G, 5-10/Fr.
Strengths: Chris Watson has become the MAAC's most-feared physical force in the low post. His offensive skills have improved each year, and he pushed his free-throw percentage from 54.5 to 62.8 percent last season, an important difference because he had 41 more attempts from the stripe than any other conference player. Kevin Jobity and Jermaine Young provide plenty of depth on the inside.
Weaknesses: The offense tends to stagnate for stretches, leaving Watson to try to create shots with little help. Jeff O'Connor can be erratic from beyond the arc, making it hard to loosen defenses. Ronnell Felton, a starting guard for two years, will be out this season while undergoing treatment for leukemia. That means sophomore Jeremiah Johnson and freshman Calvin Murphy Jr.—son of the former Niagara and NBA star who became a Hall of Famer—will have to be sharp at the point.
Outlook: The Purple Eagles can depend on Watson every night. How much help he gets will determine how far they go. If his friends come through, Niagara can have a special season.
Last league title: 1955 (Western New York Little Three).
Last NCAA appearance: 1970.
Site: Niagara, N.Y. **Home court:** John J. Gallagher (3,200).

4. IONA

Coach: Tim Welsh (26-13, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 21-8. MAAC: 10-4/T1st. Lost to St. Joseph's in NIT first round.
Starters lost (3): Greg Barr, G (14.4 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.8 spg, 47.0 FG%, 73.3 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 33.2 mpg); Mikkel Larsen, C (13.2 ppg, 5.9 rpg, **2.6 bpg**, 33.0 mpg); Rod Zamor, G (8.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.5 spg, 46.1 FG%, 72.0 FT%, 27.4 mpg).
Others lost: Greg Deaver, G (12.5 mpg); Michael Sanders, G, (4.9 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Bryan Matthew, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.5 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.6 spg, 76.5 FT%, 37.6 3-pt%, 34.4 mpg); Mindaugas Timinskas, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.7 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 3.0 apg, 78.3 FT%, 31.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Jason Bell, F, 6-7/Sr. (2.5 rpg, 8.5 mpg); Kashif Hameed, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (8.7 mpg); Karsten Kemna, C/F, 6-10/Sr.; Tarance Rose, G, 5-11/Sr. (10.9 mpg); Harm Van Woerkom, F, 6-6/Jr.
Top newcomers: Tariq Kirksay, G, 6-6/Fr.; Ivo Kresta, C/F, 6-9/Fr.; John McDonald, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/Loyola, Md.; eligible second semester); Donell Mitchell, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Jason Young, G, 6-2/Fr.
Strengths: Bryan Matthew and Mindaugas Timinskas form a solid tandem at forward, with Matthew having the athleticism to slide to guard if needed. Matthew arrived from junior college and led the Gaels in scoring and rebounding. Even with the graduation losses of Greg Barr and Rod Zamor, there will be plenty of talent in the backcourt by the second semester. By then, highly touted freshman Tariq Kirksay from New York City will have his feet wet and Loyola (Md.) transfer John McDonald will become eligible. McDonald was a 1995 MAAC All-Rookie pick.
Weaknesses: A 6-10 hole in the middle. Star center Mikkel Larsen has graduated and there is no proven replacement. Kashif Hameed will get first chance at the role, with Karsten Kemna also in the picture. The uncertainty will put even more rebounding pressure on Matthew and Timinskas.
Outlook: Iona had the conference's best regular-season record last year (along with Fairfield) before getting victimized

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

the tournament semifinals by Canisius. The Gaels figure to be in the middle of the pack this season and hope the guards can get them in title contention.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: New Rochelle, N.Y. **Home court:** The Mulcahy Center

5. CANISIUS

Coach: John Beilein (72-50, 4 years; 255-150 overall, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-11. MAAC: 7-7/5th. Lost to Utah in NCAA Midwest first round.
Starters lost (3): Darrell Barley, F (19.5 ppg, **7.6 rpg**, 2.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 51.2 FG%, 40.4 3-pt%, 34.7 mpg); Mickey Frazier, G/F (9.7 ppg, 1.0 spg, 36.6 3-pt%, 27.3 mpg); Micheal Meeks, F/C (16.2 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 45.9 FG%, 78.0 FT%, 32.5 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Ryan Collins, C, 6-11/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 22.0 mpg); Javone Moore, G, 5-11/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, **6.1 apg**, 1.4 spg, 36.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Jamie Cammaert, F, 6-5/Soph.; Fred Dupree, F, 6-6/Jr. (3.0 rpg, 12.9 mpg); Keith Lambkin, F, 6-4/Soph. (13.5 mpg); Kevin Thompson, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 1.5 apg, 73.1 FG%, 25.2 mpg); Kevin Worley, G, 6-1/Soph.
Top newcomers: Justin Blackstone, F, 6-5/Fr.; Mike McCarthy, G, 6-8/Fr.; Dale Sawyers, F, 6-6/Fr.; Matt Tribul, C, 6-8/Fr.; Eric Wooten, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS/foot).
Strengths: Javone Moore has matured into a quality point guard, averaging 2.4 assists for every turnover. Backcourt mate Kevin Thompson can be a dangerous 3-point shooter and gives opponents fits defensively. Ryan Collins has been a big contributor in the postseason the past two years.
Weaknesses: Who can be counted on to score and rebound? With 63 percent of the points and 45 percent of the rebounds gone with three graduated starters, someone will have to become a marquee man for the first time in his career. The Griffs were the MAAC's worst team beyond the arc last year, and Mickey Frazier's 67 3-point goals are gone. Can Thompson approach that total?
Outlook: Canisius rode its defense to its first NCAA Tournament bid in 39 years. Because of all the offense gone, that will have to be the Griffs' emphasis again. There simply isn't enough firepower to expect Canisius to challenge for a repeat.
Last league title: 1994.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Buffalo. **Home court:** Marine Midland Arena (19,500).

6. MANHATTAN

Coach: John Leonard (1st year; 27-40 overall, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 17-12. MAAC: 9-5/3rd. Lost to Wisconsin in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Heshimu Evans, F (13.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 3.1 apg, 35.9 3-pt%, 33.0 mpg; transfer/Kentucky); Justin Phoenix, C (12.1 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 53.0 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 29.1 mpg).
Others lost: Ted Ellis, G (5.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.5 apg, 24.3 mpg; dismissed from team); Keaton Hyman, G (11.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.3 apg, 3.3 spg, 32.0 mpg; dismissed from team).
Starters returning (3): Jason Hoover, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 27.0 mpg); Steve McDowell, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.0 spg, 28.3 mpg); Tarik Thacker, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.7 spg, 72.4 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 30.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Jeronimo Bucero, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 35.0 3-pt%, 20.3 mpg); Kyle Dye, G, 6-3/Soph.; Travis Lyons, F, 6-4/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 47.1 FG%, 20.2 mpg); Kevin Noone, G, 6-0/Soph.; Brendan O'Brien, F, 6-9/Jr. (7.1 mpg); Konata Springer, C, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Travis Blackwell, G, 6-3/Fr.; Badou Kane, F, 6-9/Fr.; Phil Lane, G, 5-11/Fr.
Strengths: Jason Hoover is the Jaspers' leading returning scorer and one of the conference's best rebounders. How valuable is he? An intestinal disorder caused him to miss last year's MAAC Tournament quarterfinal game against Niagara—his first absence after 88 career contests—and Manhattan suffered an opening-round upset for the first time in six years. Spaniard Jeronimo Bucero is a 3-point threat, and the backcourt duo of Tarik Thacker and Steve McDowell gained plenty of experience last year and helped the Jaspers become the MAAC's best defensive club.
Weaknesses: More than Manhattan has had in a long time. Coach Fran Fraschilla left for St. John's, and John Leonard, a former Villanova assistant who is a Manhattan alum, will try to keep the school's winning ways going. Heshimu Evans, the league's likely preseason player of the year, transferred to Kentucky. Depth is a huge question.
Outlook: With a run of five consecutive postseason trips (including two NCAAs) likely to end, Leonard faces a new Manhattan project. Had Evans stayed, it would have been much easier.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Riverdale, N.Y. **Home court:** Draddy Gymnasium (3,000).

SCOUTING THE METRO ATLANTIC

Ascending: Loyola (Md.). Two consecutive strong recruiting classes will show through for coach Brian Ellerbe, who has won only 21 games in his first two years.
Descending: Canisius. After a trip to the NIT Final Four in '95, Craig Wise graduated. Now, Darrell Barley, Micheal Meeks and Mickey Frazier are gone from the school's first NCAA team since 1957. After 62 wins in three seasons, the Griffs will be hard-pressed to break .500.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Canisius forward Darrell Barley's. Barley was a creator, a penetrator, a finisher and a strong rebounder—a total package that can't be replaced. Sophomore Keith Lambkin will try to step in, and hopes are high for freshman Dale Sawyers, considered by many to be the top forward out of Toronto.
Most underrated: Loyola guard Anthony Smith. The Duquesne transfer was a big contributor last year who often played in the shadow of high-scoring guard Mike Powell.
Most overrated: Iona forward Mindaugus Timinskas. Considered an NBA prospect by many, Timinskas has a tendency to disappear in key stretches of games.
Best recruiting class: Iona's big '95-96 season undoubtedly helped land Tariq Kirksay, who helped New York City's Rice High to a state title. Canisius and Siena also have nice classes.
Coach on the hot seat: Siena's Bob Beyer. The program averaged 21 wins per season in the four years before he became the coach. Graduation losses and inconsistent recruiting have saddled him with a 13-41 record in his first two years at the helm.
Odds and ends: The MAAC Tournament moves to Buffalo's new Marine Midland Arena after seven years in Albany, N.Y. The event will alternate between the two cities for the next six years. Canisius and Niagara play marquee non-conference games in the 19,500-seat Buffalo facility; Niagara will play St. John's and DePaul this year, while Canisius is scheduled to host Kentucky and Providence next year. Canisius will travel to those two schools this season. ... Iona's 10½-game improvement (10-17 to 21-7) was the nation's third-best last year, while Niagara (5-25 to 13-15) tied for sixth in that category. ... Even though he's only 33 years old, Niagara's Jack Armstrong is the elder statesman of MAAC coaches as he enters his eighth season. ... Manhattan is 110-44 the past five years, including 56-16 in MAAC play. ◆

—MIKE HARRINGTON

7. SIENA

Coach: Bob Beyer (13-41, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 5-22. MAAC: 1-13/8th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: David Attewell, F (3.0 rpg, 17.5 mpg); Brian Balser, G; Harel Gadot, G (2.0 apg, 12.9 mpg); Andy Thies, G (8.3 ppg, 1.1 apg, 76.7 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 19.9 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Brandon Fields, F, 6-6/Soph. (6.2 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 18.4 mpg); Melvin Freeny, G, 5-11/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.4 spg, 24.0 mpg); Jim Secretarski, G, 5-11/Jr. (11.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.1 apg, 79.1 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 28.7 mpg); Geoff Walker, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, 31.1 mpg); Craig Wucherpfennig, F, 6-7/Soph. (3.9 rpg, 21.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Arrigale, G, 6-6/Sr.; Jeff Muszynski, G, 6-4/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 35.7 3-pt%, 18.7 mpg); Micah Ogburn, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.3 ppg, 35.6 3-pt%, 14.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jim Cantamessa, F, 6-7/Fr.; Dave Deters, C, 6-10/Fr.; Marcus Faison, G, 6-5/Fr.; Hassan Jarrett, F, 6-6/Soph. (transfer/Rhode Island); Corey Osinski, F, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: Four freshmen saw substantial playing time last year, with Micah Ogburn finishing fourth on the team in scoring and second in 3-pointers. Jim Secretarski is one of the conference's most notorious streak shooters. Geoff Walker is a tough rebounder. The addition of Rhode Island transfer Hassan Jarrett is expected to beef up the front line. Freshman Jim Cantamessa is well-regarded.
Weaknesses: The Saints were the MAAC's worst on offense (a woeful 37.3 percent from the field), defense and rebounding last year. Only three times in the last 15 games did they break the 70-point mark. Coach Bob Beyer is asking a lot for major improvement from nine freshmen and sophomores.
Outlook: The talent is starting to mature, and there is the potential to bring this program back to its 20-win days it enjoyed before Mike Deane left for Marquette. But not this year.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Albany, N.Y. **Home courts:** Alumni Recreation Center (4,000); Knickerbocker Arena (15,500).

8. ST. PETER'S

Coach: Rodger Blind (15-12, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 15-12. MAAC: 5-9/7th.
Starters lost (3): Luis Arrosa, F (14.2 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.0 spg, 47.0 FG%, 25.7 mpg); Mike Frensley, G (9.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 81.8 FT%, **47.2 3-pt%**, 33.7 mpg); Randy Holmes, G (13.9 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 1.5 spg, 46.0 FG%, 83.6 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 28.7 mpg).
Others lost: Sunny Chaplin, F; Brian Griffith, G (13.9 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Bas de Voogd, C, 7-0/Sr. (4.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 51.8 FG%, 20.1 mpg); Moe Segar, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.4 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.0 bpg, 28.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Jerome Davis, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 56.8 FG%, 21.2 mpg); Jamar Hunter, G, 6-0/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 73.5 FT%, 43.5 3-pt%, 11.7 mpg); Sherrod Jones, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (9.7 mpg); Diamond Navarro, G, 6-0/Jr.; Kevin Sanford, F, 6-8/Sr.
Top newcomers: Ricky Bellinger, G, 6-2/Fr.; Poncho Giuria, F/G, 6-4/Fr.; Demetric Reese, G/F, 6-4/F(RS).
Strengths: Defense continues to be the Peacocks' forte. Moe Segar, Jerome Davis and Bas de Voogd can make life difficult for opponents visiting the lane. Jamar Hunter and freshman Ricky Bellinger will lead a backcourt that will strive to remain as reliable as it was with Mike Frensley, Randy Holmes and Brian Griffith at the controls.
Weaknesses: Aside from Canisius, the only other MAAC team riddled by graduation losses was St. Peter's. Without Frensley and Griffith, the 3-point threat will suffer dramatically. Minus Arrosa, the Peacocks won't be nearly as aggressive.
Outlook: A long year for coach Rodger Blind, who will start to rebuild a program just two years removed from the NCAAs.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Jersey City, N.J. **Home court:** Yanitelli Center (3,200). ◆

Mike Harrington covers college basketball for The Buffalo News.

WEST COAST

Conference Rank: 13

By Chuck Dybdal

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. SAN FRANCISCO
2. GONZAGA
3. ST. MARY'S
4. SAN DIEGO
5. PORTLAND
6. SANTA CLARA
7. LOYOLA MARYMOUNT
8. PEPPERDINE

ALL-WCC TEAM

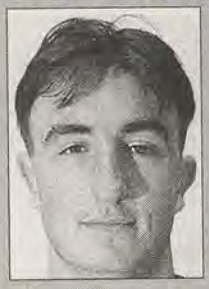
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	MARLON GARNETT, Santa Clara	6-2/186	Sr.
F	BRYAN HILL, Pepperdine	6-8/225	Jr.
G/F	KWEEMADA KING, Portland	6-4/205	Sr.
C	PAUL ROGERS, Gonzaga	7-0/220	Sr.
G	JIM WILLIAMSON, Loyola Marymount	5-10/160	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
C	BRIAN BRUSO, San Diego	6-7/225	Sr.
G/F	SEAN FLANNERY, San Diego	6-5/200	Sr.
G	DIONN HOLTON, Portland	5-10/185	Jr.
C	GREG KLOSTERMAN, Portland	6-11/235	Sr.
F	A.J. ROLLINS, St. Mary's	6-8/233	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



PAUL ROGERS
C, Gonzaga

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

GERALD ZIMMERMAN, G, San Francisco

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Sean Flannery, San Diego.
Best rebounder: Bryan Hill, Pepperdine.
Best playmaker: Kamran Sufi, St. Mary's.
Best defender: Dionn Holton, Portland.
Best leaper: Lloyd Pierce, Santa Clara.
Best under 6 foot: Jim Williamson, Loyola Marymount.
Best over 7 foot: Paul Rogers, Gonzaga.
Most versatile: Kweemada King, Portland.
Most flamboyant: Hakeem Ward, San Francisco.
Best NBA prospect: Gerald Zimmerman, San Francisco.

1. SAN FRANCISCO

Coach: Phil Mathews (15-12, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 15-12. West Coast: 8-6/T3rd.
Starters lost (3): Ryan Brass, G (2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 23.7 mpg); Gerald Walker, G (12.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 4.7 apg, **2.6 spg**, 73.6 FT%, 31.2 mpg); Booker T. Washington, C (8.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 45.8 FG%, 25.3 mpg).
Others lost: Michael Colter, G (12.6 mpg; transfer/Baylor); Jermaine Galloway, F (55.4 FG%, 10.4 mpg; left team); Jamie Holmes, F (transfer/JC); Jason Johnson, F (4.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 52.6 FG%, 16.4 mpg; transfer/South Dakota); Myron Richardson, F (transfer/JC).
Starters returning (2): Zerrick Campbell, F, 6-5/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.1 spg, 52.7 FG%, 77.4 FT%, 29.6 mpg); John Duggan, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 70.2 FT%, 33.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Mark Nees, C, 7-0/Jr. (7.9 mpg); M.J. Nodilo, G, 6-4/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 78.2 FT%, 38.6 3-pt%, 19.3 mpg); Ryan Rutherford, G, 6-4/Jr.
Top newcomers: Damian Cantrell, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jamal Cobbs, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC); Ra'oof Sadat, F, 6-8/Fr.; Hakeem Ward, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Dony Wilcher, G, 5-10/Fr.; Charles Woodard, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Gerald Zimmerman, G, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The Dons have the most talent and athletic ability since the program was resumed in 1985. Five recruits from coach Phil Mathews' Ventura College program that was 71-3 the past two years will allow the coach to play the full-court pressure game he loves but was unable to employ last year. Mathews showed last season that he can get players to do things his way.
Weaknesses: Can talent overcome a lack of Division I experience? John Duggan, a two-time all-conference honorable mention selection, probably will come off the bench, but depth could pose a problem. The Dons may have size problems, too.
Outlook: The Dons could be a year away, but their distinctive style and talent could make them the team to beat in a well-balanced conference.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1982.
Site: San Francisco. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (5,300).

2. GONZAGA

Coach: Dan Fitzgerald (239-157, 14 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-9. West Coast: 10-4/T1st. Lost to Washington State in NIT first round.
Starters lost (3): Kyle Dixon, G (10.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 5.7 apg, 1.6 spg, 37.3 3-pt%, 35.8 mpg); Jon Kinloch, F (13.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 43.0 FG%, 74.3 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 35.2 mpg); Scott Snider, F (10.8 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.0 bpg, **62.9 FG%**, 30.8 mpg).
Others lost: Jason Bond, F (7.4 mpg); Keith Kincaid, F (left school); Scott Morgan, F (8.6 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Paul Rogers, C, 7-0/Sr. (15.2 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 57.8 FG%, 32.2 mpg); Lorenzo Rollins, 6-4/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 81.4 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 22.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Phillip Ball, F, 6-9/Soph.; Bakari Hendrix, F, 6-8/Jr.; Mike Leasure, F, 6-6/Soph. (54.5 FG%, 11.0 mpg); John Nemeth, G, 5-11/Sr.; Kevin Williams, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.9 ppg, 73.3 FT%, 16.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Carl Crider, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Eastern Washington); Jeremy Eaton, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Ryan Floyd, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS); Richie Frahm, G, 6-5/Fr.; Doug Griffin, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Brad McKnight, F, 6-8/Soph. (transfer/San Jose State); Mike Nilson, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS); Matt Santangelo, G, 6-0/Fr. (RS).
Strengths: Start with the conference's top returning player: 7-footer Paul Rogers. Sprinkle in the conference's strongest home-court advantage (50 victories in the past 52 games) and a tradition of winning that includes three consecutive postseason appearances.
Weaknesses: Other than Rogers and Lorenzo Rollins, the Zags don't have much scoring punch. And they'll have their first freshman point guard (redshirt Matt Santangelo) in coach Dan Fitzgerald's 15-year tenure. A lack of experience could prove to be a concern.
Outlook: This is Fitzgerald's final season, which should give the Zags an emotional lift. A fairly easy non-conference schedule could set a winning tone early.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Spokane, Wash. **Home court:** Charlotte Y. Martin Centre (4,000).

3. ST. MARY'S

Coach: Ernie Kent (67-72, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. West Coast: 5-9/7th.
Starters lost (1): Jumoke Horton, C (12.3 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 62.3 FG%, 30.6 mpg).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Santa Clara's Garnett is a tremendous outside shooter; he hit 41.3 percent of his 3-point shots.

Others lost: Mahershala Gilmore, F (7.0 ppg, 70.8 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 17.6 mpg); Reggie Steele, F (3.1 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 12.9 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Ivan Dodic, F, 6-4/Sr. (4.6 rpg, 53.3 FG%, 19.5 mpg); David Sivulich, G, 5-10/Jr. (15.7 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.0 spg, 71.8 FT%, 36.9 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg); Kamran Sufi, G, 5-10/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 5.7 apg, 1.3 spg, 31.1 mpg); Josh Unruh, G, 6-5/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 3.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 79.7 FT%, 22.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Eric Knapp, G, 6-5/Soph. (5.0 ppg, 15.6 mpg); Frank Knight, G, 6-1/Soph.; Brad Millard, C, 7-2/Soph.; A.J. Rollins, F, 6-8/Sr. (RS/injury); Eric Schraeder, F, 6-9/Soph. (6.3 ppg, 46.6 FG%, 82.9 FT%, 37.5 3-pt%, 13.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Frank Allocco, G, 5-10/Fr.; Jesse Bond, C, 6-9/Fr.; Josh Greer, F, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: The Gaels have good size, starting with budding giant Brad Millard (7-2, 325), fifth-year senior A.J. Rollins and sophomore Eric Schraeder. Schraeder is as good an outside shooter as 3-point specialist David Sivulich. The Gaels also have a good guard rotation with Sivulich, Kamran Sufi and Josh Unruh.
Weaknesses: Injuries could affect a team whose frontcourt depth is suspect. Rollins has been injured three consecutive years, and Millard was hobbled early last year. Backcourt size also could be a concern if Sufi and Sivulich, both generously listed at 5-10, play as much together as they did last year.
Outlook: With Rollins' leadership, this team could be a dark horse in the league title race. It has the ingredients to do some damage.
Last league title: 1989.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Moraga, Calif. **Home court:** McKeon Pavilion (3,500).

4. SAN DIEGO

Coach: Brad Holland (25-30, 2 years; 48-61 overall, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 14-14. West Coast: 6-8/6th.
Starters lost (1): David Fizdale, G (8.9 ppg, 2.9 rpg, **7.0 apg**, 2.1 spg, 35.4 mpg).
Others lost: Val Hill, F (9.4 mpg); Rocco Raffo, C.
Starters returning (4): Brian Bruso, C, 6-7/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 53.9 FG%, 21.8 mpg); Brock Jacobsen, G, 6-5/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 47.0 FG%, 70.2 FT%, 24.9 mpg); Brian Miles, F, 6-9/Jr. (11.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 73.3 FT%, 49.0 3-pt%, 22.2 mpg); Lamont Smith, G, 6-2/Soph. (17.0 mpg).
Other returnees: James Black, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.0 apg, 76.9 FT%, 16.8 mpg); Mike Courtney, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.9 mpg); Sean Flannery, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (RS/knee); Kareem Mutrie, G, 5-11/Jr.; Nosa Obasohan, F, 6-5/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 15.3 mpg); Andre Speech, F, 6-8/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 49.7 FG%, 39.3 3-pt%, 17.0 mpg); Ryan Williams, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 56.1 FG%, 19.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jim Brewer, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brian Smith, F, 6-9/Fr.; Alex Davis, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Nine of the top 10 scorers return (including Sean Flannery, who played only six games because of a knee injury), so there is no lack of experience. The Toreros welcome back 11 lettermen and eight players who started at least eight games last year.
Weaknesses: Replacing point guard David Fizdale—who

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

was as valuable as any player in the WCC last year—is coach Brad Holland's biggest concern. JC transfer Alex Davis or freshman Jim Brewer (son of the former NBA player of the same name) must come through. Lack of quickness could be a concern, too.

Outlook: This is a blue-collar crew with no big names but plenty of grit. Players such as Brian Miles, Ryan Williams, Brian Bruso, freshman of the year Brock Jacobsen and Flannery could start for any team in the conference.

Last league title: 1987.

Last NCAA appearance: 1987.

Site: San Diego. **Home court:** USD Sports Center (2,500).

5. PORTLAND

Coach: Rob Chavez (40-19, 2 years; 68-46 overall, 4 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).

1995-96 record: 19-11. West Coast: 7-7/5th. Lost to Villanova in NCAA Midwest first round.

Starters lost (1): Lemont Daniels, F, 6-4/F (12.1 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 3.9 apg, 2.5 spg, 50.3 FG%, 73.1 FT%, 29.8 mpg).

Others lost: Rick Brainard, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 39.3 3-pt%, 21.4 mpg); Kasey Flicker, G, 6-4/Sr. (81.1 FT%, 14.4 mpg); Sharif Metoyer, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.4 mpg).

Starters returning (4): Chivo Anderson, G, 6-5/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.0 spg, 37.4 3-pt%, 24.1 mpg); Dionn Holton, G, 5-10/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 48.9 FG%, 24 mpg); Kweemada King, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 74.2 FT%, 21.8 mpg); Greg Klosterman, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 72.2 FT%, 25.0 mpg).

Other returnees: Troy Collins, F, 6-6/Soph.; Luke Palumbis, C, 6-9/Jr.; Jimmie Rainwater, F, 6-6/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 73.0 FT%, 12.9 mpg); Kyle Stonehouse, F, 6-8/Soph. (10.2 mpg).

Top newcomers: Jason Arbuckle, G, 6-0/Fr.; Brian Jackson, F, 6-5/Fr.; Eric Sandrin, F, 6-9/Fr.

Strengths: Coach Rob Chavez has quietly cleaned house and taken the Pilots to the conference finals and the NCAA Tournament in his first two years. The Pilots play tenacious defense and have the guard (Dionn Holton), big man (Greg Klosterman) and scoring threat (Kweemada King) to continue that success. Guard Chivo Anderson was one of the conference's most improved players last year and should provide an outside threat.

Weaknesses: Despite the return of four starters, there are major questions about the depth on this team. Holton's ballhandling (74 turnovers in 30 games) must improve, as well.

Outlook: After making the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1959, the Pilots should be a factor in the league race despite their .500 finish last year.

Last league title: None.

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.

Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Chiles Center (5,000).

6. SANTA CLARA

Coach: Dick Davey (73-42, 4 years; 2-3 NCAA Tournament record).

1995-96 record: 20-9. West Coast: 10-4/T1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA West second round.

Starters lost (3): Kevin Dunne, F (6.0 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 25.4 mpg); Brendan Graves, C (9.5 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.2 bpg, 50.5 FG%, 24.2 mpg); Steve Nash, G (17.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 6.7 apg, 1.3 spg, **89.4 FT%**, 34.4 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg).

Others lost: Adam Anderson, G (2.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 38.2 3-pt%, 19.9 mpg); Phil Von Buchwaldt, C (3.2 rpg, 11.3 mpg).

Starters returning (2): Marlon Garnett, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 76.4 FT%, **41.8 3-pt%**, 31.2 mpg); Jason Sedlock, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 80.9 FT%, 20.2 mpg).

Other returnees: Matt Coleman, G, 6-3/Jr.; Harry Hoffman, F, 6-9/Soph.; Lloyd Pierce, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.3 ppg, 1.0 spg, 36.4 3-pt%, 18.6 mpg); Ben Willett, G, 6-0/Jr.; Drew Zurek, C, 6-9/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 78.7 FT%, 40.0 3-pt%, 17.9 mpg).

Top newcomers: Nathan Fast, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Chris Gomes, F, 6-8/Fr.; Craig Johnson, G, 6-4/Jr. (RS); Brian Jones, G, 6-3/Fr.; Brandon Price, F, 6-5/Fr.; Todd Wuschnig, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS).

Strengths: Marlon Garnett is the WCC's leading 3-point shooter and could finish in the top five in conference history. Drew Zurek, who averaged 7.0 points off the bench after starting as a sophomore the year before, and Jason Sedlock provide a solid foundation up front.

Weaknesses: The Broncos' inside game, particularly their rebounding, is suspect. Garnett is the only proven outside threat. Lloyd Pierce is explosive, but he and the other returnees must handle the ball better.

Outlook: The Broncos must realize they will be a different team this year. They need to replace Steve Nash's scoring, ballhandling, emotional fire, leadership and ability to step things up. Everyone must chip in a little with Nash gone or it will be payback time for many conference foes.

Last league title: 1996 (tie).

Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.

SCOUTING THE WEST COAST

Ascending: San Francisco. Phil Mathews should have been coach of the year after turning an also-ran (10-19 overall, 4-10 in the WCC in '94-95) into a contender (15-12, 8-6 last season). This year's team will be more suited to playing his full-court pressure style.

Descending: Santa Clara. The Broncos suffered the conference's biggest loss in Steve Nash, not to mention four other seniors who combined to play nearly 60 percent of the minutes last year.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Santa Clara guard Steve Nash's. Junior Lloyd Pierce won't be a first-round NBA pick and he can't hit from the outside like Nash, but he is explosive and has no fear.

Most underrated player: San Francisco forward Zerrick Campbell. He went from 2.8 points and 2.0 rebounds as a freshman to 10.2 points (on 52.7 percent shooting) and 7.3 rebounds as a sophomore.

Most overrated player: Santa Clara guard Marlon Garnett. The conference's top 3-point shooter benefited greatly from Nash's presence and will have trouble creating shots under increased defensive pressure with Nash gone.

Best recruiting class: San Francisco. It's Ventura College North as Mathews signed five players he originally recruited to Ventura, including Hakeem Ward, the state JC MVP in 1995, and Gerald Zimmerman, a JC all-state pick. There also are freshmen Ra'oof Sadat, Nevada's Player of the Year, and Dony Wilcher, a second-team "Best in the West" pick from Los Angeles.

Coach on the hot seat: St. Mary's Ernie Kent. The momentum he built a year earlier vanished during the Gaels' injury-plagued 12-15 campaign last season.

Odds and ends: Despite ranking 10th among the nation's conferences in the RPI rating last season, the WCC still doesn't have a television contract. ... Santa Clara played the nation's ninth-toughest schedule last year. The Broncos posted regular-season wins over UCLA, Michigan State, Fresno State and Georgia Tech and beat Maryland in the NCAA Tournament. ... Only two of last year's all-conference players return: Gonzaga 7-footer Paul Rogers and Loyola Marymount's 5-10 Jim Williamson. Pepperdine's Gerald Brown is likely to be redshirted. ... Williamson's father, Duane, was an all-conference player at LMU in 1971-72. ... With the exception of 1993-94, at least one new coach has entered the league each season since 1983. This year, the new guy is Pepperdine's Lorenzo Romar, a former UCLA assistant. ◆

—CHUCK DYBDAL

Site: Santa Clara, Calif. **Home Court:** Toso Pavilion (5,000).

7. LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

Coach: John Olive (44-67 record, 4 years).

1995-96 record: 18-11. West Coast: 8-6/T3rd.

Starters lost (2): Ime Oduok, C (13.5 ppg, **8.8 rpg**, 61.5 FG%, 28.2 mpg); Mike O'Quinn, F (11.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.3 apg, 52.7 FG%, 70.4 FT%, 28.5 mpg; suspended from team).

Others lost: None.

Starters returning (3): Ben Ammerman, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.3 apg, 84.0 FT%, 39.3 3-pt%, 27.7 mpg); Kenny Hotopp, C, 6-10/Jr. (8.6 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 49.0 FG%, 27.1 mpg); Jim Williamson, G, 5-10/Sr. (12.5 ppg, 4.4 apg, 86.4 FT%, 35.7 mpg).

Other returnees: John Anthony, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.4 mpg); Julian Hammond, G, 6-2/Soph. (7.5 mpg); Will Jones, F, 6-5/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 47.5 FG%, 13.8 mpg); Tim Kennedy, G, 6-5/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 78.6 FT%, 14.9 mpg); Jason Perry, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.0 mpg); Terryl Woolery, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.9 spg, 23.4 mpg).

Top newcomers: Peter Cornell, F, 6-10/Soph. (transfer/Puget Sound); Kevin Daniels, G, 6-2/Fr.

Strengths: Ben Ammerman and Kenny Hotopp were vastly improved as sophomores last season and are underrated coming into this season. Point guard Jim Williamson, who has played more minutes than anyone else in the league the past two seasons, provides good leadership.

Weaknesses: The Lions had 85 more turnovers than any WCC team last year, so they must handle the ball better. Conference rebounding leader Ime Oduok's 255 rebounds must be replaced. Last year's role players—Terryl Woolery, Tim Kennedy and Will Jones—have to improve.

Outlook: The Lions finished tied for third in the league last year, earning John Olive coach of the year honors. They'll be hard-pressed to do as well this year. They also face the WCC tourney jinx (no host school has won the postseason tournament).

Last league title: 1990.

Last NCAA appearance: 1990.

Site: Los Angeles. **Home court:** Gersten Pavilion (4,156).

8. PEPPERDINE

Coach: Lorenzo Romar (1st year).

1995-96 record: 10-18. West Coast: 2-12/8th.

Starters lost (1): Gavin Van Der Putten, C (7.4 ppg, 5.8 rpg, **1.4 bpg**, 46.5 FG%, 26.0 mpg).

Others lost: Tarik Bragg, F (9.2 mpg; transfer/JC); Wil Weir, F (10.2 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 46.4 FG%, 73.9 FT%, 20.3 mpg; left school).

Starters returning (4): Gerald Brown, G, 6-3/Sr. (**17.8 ppg**, 5.9 rpg, 2.6 apg, 47.3 FG%, 79.0 FT%, 39.1 3-pt%, 35.0 mpg/likely to redshirt because of knee injury); Bryan Hill, F, 6-8/Jr. (15.1 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 53.5 FG%, 55.4 FT%, 32.8 mpg); Khary Hervey, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.3 spg, 48.8 FG%, 29.9 mpg); Marques Johnson, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.5 spg, 74.7 FT%, 34.4 mpg).

Other returnees: Tezale Archie, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.0 ppg, 76.5 FT%, 21.5 mpg); Eric Griffin, 6-8/Soph. (12.3 mpg).

Top newcomers: Kelvin Gibbs, F, 6-6/Fr.; Billy Jones, G, 6-5/Fr.; Marc McDowell, F, 6-7/Soph. (JC); R.J. Powell, G, 6-2/Soph. (RS/back); Tommy Prince, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (transfer/Arizona State).

Strengths: Even without all-conference star Gerald Brown (likely to redshirt because of a knee injury), the Waves have the conference's best guard rotation with Marques Johnson, Khary Hervey, Tezale Archie and redshirt R.J. Powell. Bryan Hill is as good as anyone in the conference in the frontcourt.

Weaknesses: New coach Lorenzo Romar faces size and depth problems, even with the late addition of Arizona State transfer Tommy Prince, who will be eligible this year. Hill and Eric Griffin, both 6-8, are the team's biggest players.

Outlook: With omm'a Givens (UCLA) and Jelani Gardner (Cal) sitting out a transfer year and Brown likely to redshirt, the Waves are a year away from being contenders. But look for improvement from a perennial WCC power that has won only six conference games the past two years.

Last league title: 1993.

Last NCAA appearance: 1994.

Site: Malibu, Calif. **Home court:** Firestone Fieldhouse (3,104). ◆

Chuck Dybdal covers the WCC for the Contra Costa Times in Walnut Creek, Calif.

SUN BELT

Conference Rank: 14

By Thomas Murphy

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK
2. WESTERN KENTUCKY
3. NEW ORLEANS
4. SW LOUISIANA
5. JACKSONVILLE
6. LAMAR
7. SOUTH ALABAMA
8. ARKANSAS STATE
9. LOUISIANA TECH
10. TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

ALL-SUN BELT TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	RON COLEMAN, Lamar	6-4/205	Sr.
G	MALIK DIXON, UALR	6-1/175	Sr.
F/C	MUNTRELLE DOBBINS, UALR	6-6/240	Sr.
F	TONY LOVAN, W. Kentucky	6-6/210	Sr.
F	MARK NEAL, South Alabama	6-7/200	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

F	QUINCY ALEXANDER, Lamar	6-8/210	Sr.
F	CHRIS MANUEL, SW Louisiana	6-8/190	Jr.
G	MICAH MARSH, Arkansas St.	6-0/170	Jr.
G	CONLEY VERDUN, SW Louisiana	5-10/165	Sr.
C	EDDIE WASHINGTON, New Orleans	6-8/265	Jr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

MALIK DIXON
G, Arkansas-Little Rock

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

EDDIE WASHINGTON, C, New Orleans

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: John Knox, Jacksonville.

Best rebounder: Muntrelle Dobbins, Arkansas-Little Rock.

Best playmaker: Chris Snowden, SW Louisiana.

Best defender: Kwan Johnson, New Orleans.

Best leaper: Micah Ross, Jacksonville.

Best under 6 foot: Conley Verdun, SW Louisiana.

Best over 7 foot: None.

Most versatile: Marcus Wesley, Arkansas-Little Rock.

Most flamboyant: Conley Verdun, SW Louisiana.

Best NBA prospect: Ron Coleman, Lamar.

1. ARKANSAS-LITTLE ROCK

Coach: Wimp Sanderson (40-19, 2 years; 305-137 overall, 14 years; 12-10 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 23-7. Sun Belt: 14-4/T1st. Lost to Vanderbilt in NIT first round.
Starters lost (2): Derek Fisher, G (14.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 5.1 apg, 1.9 spg, 74.6 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 34.7 mpg); Joe Stephens, F (12.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.1 spg, 46.3 FG%, 74.5 FT%, 33.4 mpg).
Others lost: Andre Chestnut, G (transfer); Orlando Donaldson, F (5.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 56.1 FG%, 70.7 FT%, 17.7 mpg); Odell Stokes, F (transfer).
Starters returning (3): Malik Dixon, G, 6-1/Sr. (17.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.5 apg, 82.4 FT%, 41.9 3-pt%, 34.5 mpg); Muntrelle Dobbins, F/C, 6-6/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.5 bpg, 58.9 FG%, 26.7 mpg); Rodd Smith, F, 6-4/Sr. (2.5 rpg, 2.0 apg, 72.2 FT%, 22.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Derrick Crayton, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 mpg); Marcus Wesley, G, 6-3/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 17.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Eric Barnes, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS/injury); Tavares Davis, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; Charles Koonce, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Sherman Lusk, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); James Price, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Daniyal Robinson, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Malik Dixon figures to be the best backcourt player in a guard-dominated league. An excellent defender, Dixon also rebounds well for his size, is a competent playmaker and a great shooter. Muntrelle Dobbins ranked second in league rebounding and improved his free-throw shooting.
Weaknesses: The Trojans lack a dominating presence in the post. The team also must find a way to win in the conference tournament, where it has lost two consecutive finals.
Outlook: Wimp Sanderson has produced two strong teams at UALR, but this looks like the unit that will provide his first NCAA Tournament trip with the Trojans. A third consecutive Sun Belt Tournament final seems like an engraved invitation.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Little Rock, Ark. **Home court:** Barton Coliseum (8,303).

2. WESTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Matt Kilcullen (40-18, 2 years; 102-116 overall, 8 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-14. Sun Belt: 10-8/T3rd.
Starters lost (3): Michael Fraliex, G (12.2 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 2.3 apg, **84.8 FT%**, 29 mpg); Chris Robinson, F/G (16.8 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.4 apg, **2.6 spg**, 45.5 FG%, 33 mpg); Pop Thornton, C (12.4 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 53.2 FG%, 28 mpg).
Others lost: John Mathews, G; Carl Thomas, F/G (2.2 rpg, 13 mpg; transfer/Charleston Southern).
Starters returning (2): Tony Lovan F, 6-6/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 1.5 spg, 51.5 FG%, 72.0 FT%, 32 mpg); Rob Williams, G, 5-10/Soph. (6.6 ppg, 3.0 apg, 80.8 FT%, 43.0 3-pt%, 21 mpg).
Other returnees: Melvin Adams, F, 6-6/Soph. (2.1 rpg, 11 mpg); Kyle Chapman, G, 6-5/Soph.; Brad Divine, G, 6-0/Sr. (16 mpg); Ravon Farris, C, 6-8/Soph.; Joe Harney, G, 6-4/Soph. (12 mpg); Robert Marchant, C, 6-10/Sr.
Top newcomers: Stephen Bides, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Lee Lampley, F, 6-6/Fr.; Nashon McPherson, G, 6-4/Fr.; Jermel Thomas, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Tony Lovan should become one of the conference headliners this season with his forceful play at forward. Rob Williams has a chance to be a great point guard. Fellow guard Brad Divine has a nice 3-point stroke. What's more, the Hilltoppers have the best home-court advantage in the league.
Weaknesses: Matt Kilcullen bemoaned his team's inability to win on the road last season. The team must tighten its concentration at crunch time—the Hilltoppers permitted a league high 46.1 percent field-goal shooting.
Outlook: Touted newcomers such as Nashon McPherson, Steven Bides and Jermel Thomas could spell the difference between another break-even season and a return to the top.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Bowling Green, Ky. **Home court:** E.A. Diddle Arena (11,300).

3. NEW ORLEANS

Coach: Tic Price (41-20, 2 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-9. Sun Belt: 14-4/T1st. Lost to North Carolina in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost (4): James Douglas, F (10.2 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 52.1 FG%, 25.7 mpg); Gevon Garner, C (5.1 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 20.8 mpg); Tyrone Garris, G (15.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 3.8 apg, 1.3 spg, 82.9 FT%, 40.6 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg); Lewis Sims, F (13.3 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 36.0 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg).
Others lost: Joe Chavis, F; Andy Seigle, F/C (11.4 mpg); Jermaine Spivey, G/F, (7.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.0 apg, 37.3 3-pt%, 19.2 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Jason Wright, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 3.0 apg, 76.9 FT%, 34.2 3-pt%, 25.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Corey Brown, G, 6-4/Jr. (13.5 mpg); Kwan Johnson, F, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 51.4 FG%, 23.2 mpg); Sean Long, G, 5-10/Sr.
Top newcomers: Renard Allen, G, 6-1/Fr.; Bakari Autman, G, 6-5/Fr.; Robby Dunn, F, 6-8/Fr.; Brian Hagens, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Kirk Stoneking, G, 6-3/Fr.; Bernd Volcic, F/C, 6-10/Fr.; Eddie Washington, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); DeWaune Wesley, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Tic Price likes a punishing defense, and with proven defender Kwan Johnson, that should continue. Jason Wright will be a steadying influence with a year of seasoning at the point. JC transfer Eddie Washington is a favorite for newcomer of the year.
Weaknesses: There are only four returning players with Division I experience. The Privateers did not protect the ball particularly well last season, but it will be more of a necessity now.
Outlook: Price inherited a club with little returning talent two seasons ago and made it a winner. He'll have to turn the same trick again this year. If Washington and the other newcomers make a splash, UNO could be right back near the top.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: New Orleans. **Home court:** Lakefront Arena (10,000).

4. SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

Coach: Marty Fletcher (164-130, 10 years; 201-205 overall, 14 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-12. Sun Belt: 9-9/5th.
Starters lost (1): Kelvin Price, F (8.4 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.7 spg, 47.9 FG%, 31.4 mpg; transfer).
Others lost: Ron Bailey, F (11.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.4 spg, 1.3 bpg, 74.7 FT%, 56.8 FG%, 20.6 mpg); Ashley Landers, C.
Starters returning (4): Chris Manuel, F, 6-8/Jr. (14.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.0 spg, 36.7 mpg); Reginald Poole, F, 6-8/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.7 spg, **1.9 bpg**, 46.4 FG%, 47.5 3-pt%, 24.8 mpg); Chris Snowden, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, **5.6 apg**, 1.6 spg, 70.0 FT%, 33.9 mpg); Conley Verdun, G, 5-10/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.1 spg, 82.7 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 37.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Charles Fine, G, 5-10/Soph. (7.4 mpg); Richard Mauzey, F, 6-7/Sr.; Norvie Womack G, 6-4/Sr. (8.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Anthony Aucoin, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Casey Green, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Kendall Regis, C, 6-9/Fr.
Strengths: The team brings back the bulk of its bomb squad, which ranked 24th in the nation with 7.8 3-pointers per game. Conley Verdun led the way with 3.3 treys per game; he should improve on his field-goal percentage (37.5). Reginald Poole is a shot-blocking force in the middle. The team should be superb defensively after leading the league in steals, turnover margin and blocked shots.
Weaknesses: Chemistry might be a concern after junior Kelvin Price transferred and Chris Manuel threatened to leave.
Outlook: Verdun and point guard Chris Snowden, the league's assist leader, give the Cajuns a solid backcourt, but depth questions remain elsewhere. Coach Marty Fletcher has proved the doubters wrong before; he'll get another chance this year.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lafayette, La. **Home court:** Cajundome (12,000).

5. JACKSONVILLE

Coach: George Scholz (33-22, 2 years; 222-85 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 15-13. Sun Belt: 10-8/T3rd.
Starters lost (2): Jerome Malloy, G (13.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 78.2 FT%, 38.2 3-pt%, 32.9 mpg); Artemus McClary, F (**18.5 ppg, 10.0 rpg**, 3.7 apg, 2.2 spg, 1.3 bpg, 50.4 FG%, 32.1 mpg).
Others lost: Terrell Johnson, C (3.3 rpg, 75.0 FT%, 15.3 mpg); Marcell Martin, G (7.3 ppg, 50.0 FG%, 20.4 mpg; quit team).
Starters returning (3): Aaron Fox, G, 6-3/Soph. (9.5 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 52.7 FG%, 22.4 mpg); John Knox, G, 6-1/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.5 apg, 88.1 FT%, **43.9 3-pt%**, 24.7 mpg); Micah Ross, F, 6-3/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 27.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Glen Brown, G, 5-11/Jr. (10.2 mpg); Edwin Cayenne, C, 6-5/Sr. (3.2 rpg, 15.1 mpg); Farnell Charles, F, 6-7/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 12.2 mpg); Josh Krieger, C, 6-11/Sr. (9.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jamie Johnson, F, 6-7/Soph.; Lewis Lowe, F, 6-6/Fr.; Reggie McNair, G, 6-1/Fr.; Dorsett Watson, G, 6-0/Fr.
Strengths: One of the best young teams in the conference with the nucleus of Micah Ross, John Knox and Aaron Fox. Knox knocked down a conference-high 43.9 percent of his 3-point attempts, and Fox (the brother of NBA player Rick) is the reigning freshman of the year. Despite his lack of size, Ross ranked 15th in the conference in rebounding.
Weaknesses: Josh Krieger hasn't exactly developed into an enforcer at center. The front line is small and thin and inexperienced behind Krieger and Ross. The Dolphins need to become better ballhandlers after ranking last in the league with a minus-1.7 turnover margin.
Outlook: Coach George Scholz has kept JU near the top of the league in his two seasons at the helm. It'll take a masterful effort to do it again this year.
Last league title: None.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SCOUTING THE SUN BELT

Ascending: Lamar. Coach Grey Giovanine has patiently assembled a quality team that could be on the brink of contending.

Descending: New Orleans. This is a somewhat deceptive selection. The Privateers tied for the regular-season championship and won the conference tourney last year. Four starters and three more lettermen are gone, but a strong recruiting class could vault the team back into contention.

Biggest sneakers to fill: Jacksonville forward Artemus McClary's. The burly 6-6 McClary averaged 18.5 points, 10.0 rebounds and 3.7 assists and was a strong defender. No one will duplicate those stats, but 6-5 Edwin "Bags" Cayenne and 6-3 Micah Ross must try.

Most underrated player: Arkansas State guard Micah Marsh. Marsh is a playmaker and a scorer who rebounds well, shoots 82.9 percent from the line and makes the academic honor roll.

Most overrated player: Southwestern Louisiana guard Conley Verdun. The pint-sized shooting guard tied for third in conference scoring, but shot 37.5 percent from the floor.

Best recruiting class: New Orleans added impact JC transfers like center Eddie Washington and supplemented the roster with capable freshmen.

Coach on the hot seat: Western Kentucky's Matt Kilcullen. Fans of the Hilltoppers, who rank No. 8 in all-time winning percentage, have little tolerance for losing seasons.Last year, Western finished 13-14, principally because of a 3-9 road record. Kilcullen, going into the third year of a four-year contract, thinks he has the talent to challenge again.

Odds and ends: UT-Pan American's four-year probation, handed down during the summer, was the second set of sanctions on the school in five years. Some insiders fear the "death penalty." ... Jacksonville has posted the best record in the state of Florida each of the past two seasons. ◆

—THOMAS MURPHY

Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Jacksonville. **Home court:** Jacksonville Coliseum (9,150).

6. LAMAR

Coach: Grey Giovanine (33-47, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Sun Belt: 7-11/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Terry Johnson, G (8.8 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 4.7 apg, 2.3 spg, 33.2 mpg); Carl Malvo, G (6.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 22.3 mpg); Lucas Wagler, F (15.1 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 45.5 FG%, 73.6 FT%, 35.8 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Others lost: Khaalis Abdul-Raqeeb, G; Corey Hock, C (transfer/Mary Hardin-Baylor); Orko Guyton, C (left school); Ozzie Smith-Bey, F (2.2 rpg, 70.6 FT%, 37.3 3-pt%, 8.8 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Ron Coleman, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.7 rpg, 27.6 mpg); Curley Johnson, C, 6-6/Sr. (5.9 rpg, 46.8 FG%, 18.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Aaron Clauson, C, 6-10/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 61.2 FG%, 17.5 mpg); Eric Lawson, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 1.3 spg, 73.9 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 23.8 mpg); Matt Sunblad, G, 6-2/Soph. (10.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Quincy Alexander, F, 6-8/Sr. (transfer/UNC Charlotte); Donny Coryell, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Marlone Jackson, C, 6-8/Fr.; Rod Jones, G, 5-11/Jr.(JC); Anthony Murphy, G, 6-2/Soph. (JC); Tim Reels, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Landon Rowe, F, 6-8/Fr.
Strengths: Ron Coleman knows how to put the ball in the hole. Aaron Clausen shot 61.2 percent from the floor. Foes need to beware of Quincy Alexander, a transfer from UNC Charlotte who should be in the running for newcomer of the year. Curley Johnson provides rebounding prowess.
Weaknesses: With distributor Terry Johnson gone, the Cardinals will need to find a quality point guard; Matt Sundblad and Rod Jones will compete for the job. The stabilizing influence of Lucas Wagler will be missed.
Outlook: Don't be surprised if the Cardinals break out of their rut, put everything together, and make a move to the upper echelons of the conference. Coach Greg Giovanine's fiery leadership could spur Lamar into postseason play for the first time in 13 years.
Last league title: 1984 (Southland).
Last NCAA appearance: 1983.
Site: Beaumont, Texas. **Home court:** Montagne Center (10,080).

7. SOUTH ALABAMA

Coach: Bill Musselman (12-15, 1 year, 210-75 overall, 11 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Sun Belt: 7-11/T6th.
Starters lost (2): Michael Floyd, F/C (2.9 rpg, 57.1 FG%, 14.3 mpg; transfer/Murray State); Russell McCutcheon, G (12.0 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 78.9 FT%, 37.2 3-pt%, 33.5 mpg; transfer/Nicholls State)
Others lost: David Augustine, G (13.9 mpg; quit school); Brian Kincaid, C (13.1 mpg); Jason McCutcheon, F/C (9.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 78.6 FT%, 46.9 FG%, 29.5 mpg; transfer/Nicholls State); Pete Philo, G (9.3 mpg/transfer); Aaron Williams, C (10.0 mpg/transfer).
Starters returning (3): Brian McGovern, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 75.0 FT%, 26.3 mpg); Mark Neal, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 2.0 spg, **53.0 FG%**, 35.4 mpg); Brandon Peterson, G, 6-5/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 4.6 apg, 32.0 mpg).
Other returnees: None.
Top newcomers: Rico Alderson, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Elvis Barrett, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Jerome Coaxum, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Dusty Dubbs, F, 6-5/Fr.; Jason Hamm, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Toby Madison, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Rob Sawicki, C, 6-10/Fr.; David Sweatt, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Rusty Yoder, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: This team plays tremendous defense under Bill Musselman. The Jaguars ranked third in the country (allowing 58.2 ppg) and added some brutes to further enforce their punishing brand of ball. Mark Neal has the capability to be one of the league's premier forwards. Brandon Peterson is steady at the point.
Weaknesses: Musselman's style—such as no postgame handshakes—made the Jags a team everyone loves to hate. But the team added so many new players (nine) that finding the proper combinations might be tricky.
Outlook: Injected with big bodies—seven newcomers 6-5 or taller—the Jaguars should be just as strong defensively. If Neal, Peterson and Brian McGovern improve and the team receives more scoring spark, it could make waves.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Mobile, Ala. **Home court:** Jaguar Gym (3,000).

8. ARKANSAS STATE

Coach: Dickey Nutt (9-18, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Sun Belt: 7-11/T6th.
Starters lost (1): Ron Darrett, G (11.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.3 spg, 32.0 3-pt%, 28.5 mpg).
Others lost: Bob Campbell, C (2.4 rpg, 50.6 FG%, 11.7 mpg; left school); Henry Kimbrough, G; Damon Nicholas, F (3.4 rpg, 53.9 FG%, 12.4 mpg); Edgar Perkins, G/F (6.5 ppg, 17.2 mpg; academics); Joe Stavitzke, G (5.8 ppg, 45.5 3-pt%, 13.7 mpg; transfer/Lewis); .
Starters returning (4): Antonio Harvey, G, 6-4/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 22.8 mpg); Mark Kiehne, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 24.7 mpg); Micah Marsh, G, 6-0/Jr. (11.7 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 82.9 FT%, 39.2 3-pt%, 35 mpg); Jabari Myles, F, 6-6/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 53.6 FG%, 72.6 FT%, 18.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Freddy Hicks, C/F, 6-7/Soph. (2.8 rpg, 11.1 mpg); BeBop Walker, F, 6-7/Sr. (3.0 rpg, 63.9 FG%, 15.3 mpg); Frentress Williams, G, 6-1/Jr.
Top newcomers: Curtis Brown, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Aaron Fick, C, 7-0/Fr.; David Morris F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Monday Paul, F/C, 6-11/Fr.; James Pieram, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Terry Tracy, C, 6-9/Fr.
Strengths: In his first season, coach Dickey Nutt pushed many of the right buttons and appears to have the Indians back on track. Micah Marsh is a tough guy despite his lack of size. Freddy Hicks and Jabari Myles are promising young frontcourt players.
Weaknesses: The team added a curious group of newcomers—Nigerians David Morris and Monday Paul and 7-footer Aaron Fick—to help plug a gaping hole in the post. The Indians were butchered on the boards (a staggering minus-7.6 differential) and suffered on the free-throw line (a league-worst 61.1 percent) last season.
Outlook: For Arkansas State to contend, it must learn to win on the road and vastly improve its rebounding. Nutt has the Indians headed in the right direction; it might just take another year or two to get there.
Last league title: 1991 (tie, American South).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Jonesboro, Ark. **Home court:** Convocation Center (10,563).

9. LOUISIANA TECH

Coach: Jim Wooldridge (25-30, 2 years; 202-118 overall, 11 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-17. Sun Belt: 6-12/T9th.
Starters lost (2): Ryan Bond, C (9.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 27.4 mpg); Troy Taylor, F (5.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 24.8 mpg).
Others lost: Maurice Bell, F (2.4 rpg, 11.9 mpg; transfer); Cornelius Frazier, F (6.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 56.3 FG%, 20.3 mpg); Donald Thompson, G (20.6 mpg); Troy Wilkins, G (11.3 mpg/transfer); Jamie Winters, G (transfer).
Starters returning (3): Lonnie Cooper, G, 6-4/Soph. (10.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 4.4 apg, 1.1 spg, 73.6 FT%, 36.2 mpg); LeNard Jones, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 24.3 mpg); Johnny Miller, G, 6-5/Jr. (14.5 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 72.8 FT%, 31.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Scotty Albritton, G, 5-8/Sr.; Terence James, F, 6-5/Soph.; Tommy Shurn, G, 6-3/Soph.; Antonio Smith, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 19.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Carlos Besneyrigollen, G, 6-0/Fr.; Marlon Chambers, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jon Fowler, F, 6-9/Fr. ; Courtney Hargrays, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Stacy Nolen, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Derek Smith, 6-2/Fr.; Fred Smith, F, 6-6/Fr.
Strengths: Tech has held down opponents' scoring and taken care of the boards in Wooldridge's first two seasons. Johnny Miller and Lonnie Cooper form perhaps the best young backcourt in the conference. LeNard Jones has shown he can be one of the league's better rebounders.
Weaknesses: Inexperience showed last season with bad field-goal shooting (41.8 percent) and awful 3-point accuracy (28.6). The team enters the season without a proven center.
Outlook: The Bulldogs were a surprise team two seasons ago but one of the league's biggest disappointments last year. A year of seasoning for the young stars should only help. Freshman Derek Smith could provide an extra scoring spark.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Ruston, La. **Home court:** Thomas Assembly Center (8,000).

10. TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

Coach: Mark Adams(41-65, 4 years; 249-144 overall, 13 years).
1995-96 record: 9-19. Sun Belt: 6-12/T9th
Starters lost (3): Kelon Haynie, F (10.7 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 2.0 spg, 33.5 mpg); Raheem Muhammad, G (3.8 ppg, 25.3 mpg); Nelson Oliviera, F/C (4.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 21.8 mpg).
Others lost: Robert Battle, G (6.2 ppg, 17.1 mpg); Roderick Blackman, G (6.2 ppg, 70.3 FT%, 40.0 3-pt%, 18.4 mpg); Brian Molina, G; Sedat Necipoglu, C (3.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 17.6 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Terrence Fitzpatrick, F, 6-6/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 28.4 mpg); Rene Salamao, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.6 spg, 23.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Linwood Bonner, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 70.8 FT%, 20.8 mpg); Lalo Rios, G, 5-10/Soph. (6.6 ppg, 1.7 spg, 35.9 3-pt%, 23.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jeron Allen, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Keli'i Bandmann, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Shannon Howard, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Larry Jackson, G, 6-5/Fr.; Marcos Lagemann, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Ivan Ostarcevic, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Bruce Pickett, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Todd Seibert, F, 6-8/Fr.; Mike Thompson, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Coach Mark Adams is an excellent on-floor tactician, but his job status was in jeopardy at press time after the Broncs were hit with four years' probation after an NCAA investigation. Terrence Fitzpatrick is one of the SBC's best forwards. The Broncs are a strong defensive team.
Weaknesses: UTPA has lacked scoring punch since the departure of Greg Guy three years ago. The Broncs were the worst shooting team (40.3 percent from the field) in the league and the second-worst free-throw shooting club (61.9 percent).
Outlook: Chaos within the program and the dark cloud of NCAA probation could take a toll this year. The Broncs will have to shock a lot of teams to get out of the Sun Belt cellar.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Edinburg, Texas. **Home court:** UTPA Field House (5,000). ◆

Thomas Murphy covers the Sun Belt for the Monroe (La.) News-Star.

COLONIAL

Conference Rank: 15

By Chuck Carree

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. OLD DOMINION
2. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
3. EAST CAROLINA
4. JAMES MADISON
5. RICHMOND
6. UNC WILMINGTON
7. GEORGE MASON
8. AMERICAN
9. WILLIAM & MARY

ALL-COLONIAL TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	JOE BUNN, Old Dominion	6-6/220	Jr.
G	SHERMAN HAMILTON, VCU	6-2/185	Sr.
C	ODELL HODGE, Old Dominion	6-9/265	Sr.
G	NATE LANGLEY, George Mason	6-3/175	Sr.
F	JAROD STEVENSON, Richmond	6-7/195	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	RANDY BRACY, William & Mary	6-1/180	Soph.
F/G	MELVIN DRAKE, VCU	6-7/210	Jr.
C	JONATHAN KERNER, East Carolina	6-11/245	Sr.
F	CHARLES LOTT, James Madison	6-9/215	Sr.
G	STAN SIMMONS, UNC Wilmington	5-11/165	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JOE BUNN
F, Old Dominion

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

MELVIN DRAKE, F/G, Virginia Commonwealth

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Mark Poag, Old Dominion.

Best rebounder: Odell Hodge, Old Dominion.

Best playmaker: Sherman Hamilton, Virginia Commonwealth.

Best defender: Nate Langley, George Mason.

Best leaper: Stan Simmons, UNC Wilmington.

Best under 6 foot: Stan Simmons, UNC Wilmington.

Best over 7 foot: None.

Most versatile: Tim Basham, East Carolina

Most flamboyant: Joe Bunn, Old Dominion.

Best NBA prospect: Odell Hodge, Old Dominion.

1. OLD DOMINION

Coach: Jeff Capel (39-25, 2 years; 118-90, 7 years; 1-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 18-13. Colonial: 12-4/2nd.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Mario Mullen, F (5.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 16.0 mpg); Derrick Parker, C; Duffy Samuels, G (1.4 spg, 14.1 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Mike Byers, G, 6-3/Soph. (9.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 30.7 mpg); Brion Dunlap, G, 5-11/Jr. (4.5 ppg, 4.8 apg, 1.1 spg, 72.2 FT%, 24.6 mpg); Odell Hodge, C, 6-9/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 1.6 bpg, 56.7 FG%, 27.5 mpg); Mark Poag, F/G, 6-6/Soph. (9.3 ppg, 42.7 3-pt%, 20.1 mpg); Skipper Youngblood, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (2.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 13.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Reggie Bassette, C, 6-9/Soph. (9.4 mpg); Cal Bowdler, C/F, 6-10/Soph. (8.9 mpg); Joe Bunn, F, 6-6/Jr. (16.1 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 54.9 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 26.5 mpg); E.J. Sherod, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 2.5 apg, 23.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Freddie Bryant, G, 6-3/Fr.; Chris Haskins, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Brandon Jones, G/F, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Michael Williams, G, 6-1/Fr.
Strengths: The Monarchs are the league coaches' unanimous favorite, and it's easy to see why. They return all five starters and may have the deepest team in the league. Joe Bunn and Odell Hodge are the best inside tandem in the league—and one of the best in the nation.
Weaknesses: Ballhanding and 3-point shooting were trouble spots last year. Point guard Brion Dunlap is not an offensive threat, and besides Poag, the other shooters are suspect.
Outlook: The Monarchs have a group of big sophomores in Reggie Bassette, Cal Bowdler and Skipper Youngblood, who could start for almost any other club in the league. This team is the most talented in the league and capable of being a No. 12 seed in the NCAA Tournament.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Norfolk, Va. **Home court:** The Scope (10,239).

2. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH

Coach: Sonny Smith (113-95, 7 years; 316-272 overall, 20 years; 7-6 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 24-9. Colonial: 14-2/1st. Lost to Mississippi State in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost (2): Ivan Chappell, F (10.1 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 50.4 FG%, 70.4 FT%, 28.3 mpg); Bernard Hopkins, F (16.3 ppg, **10.1 rpg**, 2.2 apg, 56.0 FG%, 29.2 mpg).
Others lost: Joe Martin, G (transfer/Columbus College); Ben Peabody, G (6.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 39.4 3-pt%, 17.1 mpg); John Smith, C (10.5 mpg); Marlow Talley, F (5.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 14.1 mpg); Chris Wood, F.
Starters returning (3): George Byrd, C, 6-8/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 50.5 FG%, 27.1 mpg); Sherman Hamilton, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 4.3 apg, 1.3 spg, 35.6 3-pt%, 29.2 mpg); Patrick Lee, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 75.4 FT%, 21.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Scott Marston, F, 6-7/Soph. (8.9 mpg); Marcus Reed, G, 6-4/Sr. (11.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Torrance Archie, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Mylo Brooks, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Melvin Drake, F/G, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Roderick Griggs, F, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Kevin Miles, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Randy Mills, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Simon Moore, F, 6-6/Fr.; Robert Shelton, G, 6-4/Soph. (transfer/Ohio State).
Strengths: Veteran coach Sonny Smith is excellent at molding a team and is a strong judge of talent. He has one of the league's premier players in Sherman Hamilton and the best newcomer, Melvin Drake, considered one of the best JC transfers in the nation.
Weaknesses: The Rams are burdened by suspect outside shooting and free-throw shooting. The Rams, who dominated the regular season in their first year in the league, were last in 3-pointers at 31.7 percent.
Outlook: The Rams were the best rebounding team in the league last season behind CAA Player of the Year Bernard Hopkins. Drake should fill his shoes nicely, and look for guard Patrick Lee and 270-pound George Byrd to have big seasons. Expect VCU to be invited to postseason play, likely the NIT.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Richmond Coliseum (12,500).

3. EAST CAROLINA

Coach: Joe Dooley (17-11, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 17-11. Colonial: 8-8/T4th.
Starters lost (1): Von Bryant, F (7.2 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 52.2 FG%, 23.7 mpg).
Others lost: Vic Hamilton, F (8.1 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 55.0 FG%, 16.4 mpg); Chuck Jones, F (dismissed from team); Deron Rippey, G (6.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 47.2 FG%, 20.2 mpg; left school); Damond Van Weerdhuizen, G (9.1 mpg; transfer/High Point).
Starters returning (4): Tim Basham, F, 6-5/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.1 apg, 80.8 FT%, 31.5 mpg); Jonathan Kerner, C, 6-11/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 69.1 FT%, 27.2 mpg); Othello Meadows, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.2 ppg, 45.9 FG%, **44.4 3-pt%**, 70.0 FT%, 28.0 mpg); Tony Parham, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.0 ppg, 2.8 apg, 79.6 FT%, 26.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Don Douglas, C, 6-10/Sr.; Morris Grooms, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 16.7 mpg); Lawrence Thomas, G/F, 6-5/Soph.
Top newcomers: Garrett Blackwelder, G, 6-2/Fr.; Alico Dunk, G, 6-0/Soph. (transfer/Tennessee); Raphael Edwards, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); William "Dink" Peters, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Neil Punt, F, 6-8/Fr.; Alphons Van Ierland, C, 7-0/Fr.
Strengths: The Pirates have the most underrated backcourt in the league. This could be the deepest East Carolina team ever. With four starters back, the Pirates could be a sleeper.
Weaknesses: The Pirates' lack of tradition is a big problem. The Pirates struggled down the stretch last season after key reserve Morris Grooms was injured. East Carolina also didn't create many turnovers with steals last season. That total may increase if point guard Tony Parham is healthy after a season filled with nagging injuries.
Outlook: Florida State transfer Jonathan Kerner should begin to blossom after working out the rust last season. Tennessee transfer Alico Dunk should aid a solid backcourt. The key is the Pirates' trio of big recruits and Parham's durability. An NIT bid could be in the offing.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Greenville, N.C. **Home court:** Minges Coliseum (7,500).

4. JAMES MADISON

Coach: Lefty Driesell (143-98, 8 years; 667-322 overall, 34 years; 15-13 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-20. Colonial: 6-10/T6th.
Starters lost (1): Darren McLinton, G (**22.7 ppg**, 2.2 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.7 spg, **85.7 FT%**, 41.5 3-pt%, 37.5 mpg).
Others lost: James Coleman, C (5.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.5 bpg, 57.0 FG%, 25.2 mpg); Dwayne Edwards, G (8.7 mpg; left program); Chuck Gilbert, G (left program).
Starters returning (4): Eugene Atkinson, F/G, 6-5/Soph. (9.6 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 32.5 mpg); Lamont Boozer, F/C, 6-10/Jr. (4.2 rpg, 22.3 mpg); Ned Felton, G, 5-10/Soph. (22.6 mpg); Charles Lott, F, 6-9/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 51.2 FG%, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Brian Ballard, F, 6-8/Sr.; Fred Boyd, F, 6-7/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 12.0 mpg); Ryan Culicerto, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.1 mpg); Eddie McNamara, G, 6-6/Soph.; James Pelham, G, 6-1/Jr. (13.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Chatney Howard, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Kevan Johnson, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ossie Jones, G, 6-4/Fr.; Mate Milisa, F, 6-10/Fr.; Jamar Perry, G, 6-4/Fr.; Rob Strickland, C, 6-10/Fr.; Riley Trone, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/George Mason; ineligible first semester).
Strengths: Seven of the returnees have started at one time or another, and veteran coach Lefty Driesell had one of his best recruiting years.
Weaknesses: Scoring could be a problem. The departed Darren McLinton practically carried the load last year, and the Dukes weren't very good. Driesell suffered his first losing season in 33 years because the Dukes were next-to-last in the league in scoring (68.4 points a game) and near the bottom in field-goal defense.
Outlook: This is a tough team to get a read on. No one expects the Dukes to go 10-20 again, but they don't appear capable of challenging for the title. No one is certain if this will be Driesell's final season; he has indicated he may retire.
Last league title: 1994 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Harrisonburg, Va. **Home court:** JMU Convocation Center (7,612).

5. RICHMOND

Coach: Bill Dooley (30-54, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 8-20. Colonial: 3-13/9th.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: Jason McKinney, C (2.9 rpg, 45.0 FG%, 12.9 mpg); Adam Ward, G (7.6 mpg).
Starters returning (5): Jonathan Baker, G, 6-1/Soph. (8.5 ppg, 2.3 apg, 38.4 3-pt%, 26.6 mpg); Carlos Cueto, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 5.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 74.4 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 29.6 mpg); Rick Edwards, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 55.9 FG%, 21.9

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

mpg); Eric Poole, F, 6-8/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 1.2 spg, 50.4 FG%, 29.9 mpg); Jarod Stevenson, F, 6-7/Jr. (13.7 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 82.7 FT%, 42.6 3-pt%, 30.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Kevin Conner, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 21.3 mpg); David Hensel, F/C, 6-9/Soph.; Charles Jefferson, F, 6-7/Sr.; Adam Mobley, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.2 ppg, 35.4 3-pt%, 12.3 mpg); Daryl Oliver, G, 6-2/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.6 spg, 89.1 FT%, 29.8 mpg); Nick Patrick, F, 6-7/Soph. (9.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Marseilles Brown, G, 5-10/Fr.; Shawn Rymer, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The Spiders lost no important players and actually regained several who had been suspended for academics, had a brush with the law or had been injured. That means this should be Richmond's best team since Dick Tarrant retired as coach four years ago. Jarod Stevenson will be the big gun. He is one of the smoothest players in the league.
Weaknesses: The Spiders have a delicate psyche. This team missed Daryl Oliver's shooting after he was suspended for academic reasons; he started in all 12 games he played. Kevin Conner is back after a domestic violence dispute (he played in only 10 games), which raises questions about how cohesive this unit can be. Some players may be unhappy with a reserve role because six players made at least 12 starts last season.
Outlook: If coach Bill Dooley can keep everyone happy, the Spiders can be a factor in the league. He probably needs a breakthrough season to keep his job.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Richmond, Va. **Home court:** Robins Center (9,171).

6. UNC WILMINGTON

Coach: Jerry Wainwright (29-27, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 13-16. Colonial: 9-7/3rd.
Starters lost (2): Preston McGriff, C (10.9 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 22.9 mpg); Darren Moore, F (9.7 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 70.7 FT%, 26.0 mpg).
Others lost: Donny Hackworth, F.
Starters returning (3): Mark Byington, F, 6-4/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 75.0 FT%, 35.5 3-pt%, 28.5 mpg); Billy Donlon, G, 6-1/Soph. (7.8 ppg, 2.3 apg, 38.9 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg); Lamont Franklin, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.0 ppg, 3.0 apg, 30.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Kenny Avent, F, 6-5/Sr. (2.7 rpg, 12.1 mpg); Michael Gibbs, F, 6-8/Soph.; Bill Mayhew, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, 46.7 FG%, 26.6 mpg); Stan Simmons, G, 5-11/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 46.3 3-pt%, 11.2 mpg); Carlos Toomer, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.0 mpg); Scott Wainwright, F, 6-2/Soph.
Top newcomers: Victor Ebong, F, 6-7/Fr.; Keith Spencer, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Defense is the foundation upon which third-year coach Jerry Wainwright has attempted to build his program. The Seahawks also rarely turn the ball over, which is important for a team that struggles on offense. Victor Ebong is a touted freshman from Nebraska.
Weaknesses: Free-throw shooting and rebounding are problems. This club, once the league's biggest, has lost a lot of size. It also was a painful team to watch at times offensively.
Outlook: The Seahawks were last in foul shooting and scoring last year. Improving the offense is a must. The team plans to change its style from a physical defensive club to a trapping and full-court pressure team. The Seahawks are playing a tough non-conference schedule, which means a slow start to a long season.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Wilmington, N.C. **Home court:** Trask Coliseum (6,100).

7. GEORGE MASON

Coach: Paul Westhead (28-53, 3 years; 275-206 overall, 17 years; 4-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-16. Colonial: 6-10/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Kenwan Alford, F (16.8 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 1.6 spg, 59.1 FG%, 33.0 mpg); Curtis McCants, G (22.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg, **8.1 apg**, 1.3 spg, 83.3 FT%, 31.0 mpg; transferred); Jason Williams, G, 6-6/Soph. (12.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 73.7 FT%, 37.6 3-pt%, 27.3 mpg; suspended).
Others lost: G.C. Marcaccini, F (14.4 ppg, 9.1 rpg, 91.4 FT%, 28.3 mpg; quit team); Mike Virtue, F (4.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 16.4 mpg; quit team).
Starters returning (2): George Redd, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 47.2 FG%, 28.6 mpg); Michael Sharp, C, 6-8/Jr. (3.9 rpg, 18.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Nate Langley, G, 6-3/Sr. (21.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 4.6 spg, 29.0 mpg); Nik Mirich, C, 6-9/Soph. (3.0 rpg, 15.6 mpg); Contrel Scott, G, 5-11/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 1.2 spg, 75.0 FT%, 15.0 mpg); Demetrius Somerville, G, 6-2/Jr. (RS/broken jaw); Bernard Wanjara, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.2 mpg); Kevin Ward, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 12.8 mpg).

SCOUTING THE COLONIAL

Ascending: East Carolina. The Pirates return four starters and added needed size with the second-best recruiting class in the league. Tennessee transfer Alico Dunk, a sophomore, should add depth to an already-deep backcourt.
Descending: George Mason. This program has been down for several years, and it didn't help when starters Curtis McCants and Jason Williams were suspended in the offseason. McCants has since left the program, and Williams has lost his scholarship.
Biggest sneakers to fill: James Madison guard Darren McLinton's. Forward Charles Lott, who averaged 14.3 points a game, must help pick up where the league's leading scorer (22.7 ppg) left off.
Most underrated player: East Carolina guard Othello Meadows. He will help lead the best backcourt in the league. Considered a gamer, he wants the shot when the game is on the line.
Most overrated player: James Madison forward Charles Lott. He is a solid player but may not be the go-to guy the Dukes need to make a run for the league title. People like him because he's the league's second-leading returning scorer.
Best recruiting class: Virginia Commonwealth. JC transfer Melvin Drake alone would make this an excellent crop.
Coach on the hot seat: Pick one—George Mason's Paul Westhead, Richmond's Bill Dooley or American's Chris Knoche. Westhead is our choice because the Patriots are headed backward.
Odds and ends: Curtis McCants was put on probation, then transferred from George Mason, and teammate Jason Williams was arrested for possession of drugs. It is not just a blow to the Patriots but to an entire league, which was hit hard by graduation. ... Look for an influx of foreign players over the next two years. UNC-Wilmington coach Jerry Wainwright says it is just as cheap to recruit overseas as it is to attend a prep tournament in Las Vegas. ◆

—CHUCK CARREE

Top newcomers: Lee Brown, G, 6-1/Soph. (JC); Avery Carey, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The reinstatement of Nate Langley and Kevin Ward, who were sidelined most of last season because of academics (each played only eight games), will help. With them, the Patriots will be among the top scoring teams in the nation because of their style of play, especially against non-conference opponents.
Weaknesses: Coach Paul Westhead's system creates easy fast-break opportunities for the opposition if they can handle the Patriots' defensive pressure. There aren't enough scorers to make his system work. George Mason would be wise to slow its pace a little.
Outlook: Demetrius Somerville, who missed last season with an injury, needs to have a successful season. He may help ease the loss of scorers Curtis McCants, who transferred after he was dismissed, and Jason Williams, who was suspended. The Patriots will have to rely heavily on JC transfers Avery Carey and Lee Brown. This team can't afford many more problems.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Fairfax, Va. **Home court:** Patriot Center (10,000).

8. AMERICAN

Coach: Chris Knoche (66-102, 6 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Colonial: 8-8/T4th.
Starters lost (3): Darryl Franklin, G (15.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.7 spg, 79.2 FT%, 35.1 mpg); Tim Fudd, F (16.1 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 1.1 bpg, 75.2 FT%, 33.5 mpg); Duane Gilliam, G (11.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 3.0 apg, **2.2 spg**, 47.0 FG%, 33.3 mpg).
Others lost: Keith Wallington, F; Ken Wallington, F.
Starters returning (2): Nathan Smith, G, 6-1/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.3 spg, 80.5 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 33.1 mpg); Thomas Treadwell, F, 6-7/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.0 spg, 48.0 FG%, 24.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Matt Brown, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 16.3 mpg); Jamaine Epps, F, 6-6/Sr. (47.4 FG%, 8.5 mpg); Dave Small, F, 6-6/Soph. (5.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 45.5 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 18.2 mpg); Jim Spadafore, G, 6-0/Soph; Jon Wolff, G, 6-0/Sr.
Top newcomers: Rafael Baidanshin, C, 6-10/Fr.; Jarion Childs, G, 6-0/Fr.; Stephen Clayton, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jason Crowe, G, 6-4/Soph. (JC); Alex Harris, F, 6-8/Fr.; Henry Marquiss, C, 6-9/Fr. (RS); Charles Rooths, G/F, 6-5/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Nathan Smith's shooting and Thomas Treadwell's leadership are keys. Matt Brown is a nice player, and Dave Small did a good job when Tim Fudd was suspended for rough play last year. Small may be a sleeper.
Weaknesses: American must replace three starters, including point guard Darryl Franklin, who performed well. Fudd's scoring will be missed—but not his attitude. The other senior starter, Duane Gilliam, was the defensive stopper.
Outlook: Scoring is the biggest question. This club was the second-best offensive team in the league and led the conference in turnover margin. It is hard to imagine the Eagles being a factor in the race, but coach Chris Knoche is a good motivator. American will upset some teams but not enough.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Bender Arena (15,000).

9. WILLIAM & MARY

Coach: Charlie Woollum (18-35, 2 years; 336-256 overall, 21 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-16. Colonial: 6-10/T6th.
Starters lost (3): David Cully, C (11.5 ppg, 9.8 rpg, **3.4 bpg**, 51.8 FG%, 31.0 mpg); Carl Parker, F (15.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.2 bpg, **59.9 FG%**, 30.8 mpg); Matt Verkey, G (10.9 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.3 apg, 75.4 FT%, 36.8 3-pt%, 31.8 mpg).
Others lost: Jeremy Dean, F.
Starters returning (2): Randy Bracy, G, 6-1/Soph. (9.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.8 spg, 30.8 mpg); Bobby Fitzgibbons, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 5.8 rpg, 46.5 FG%, 70.8 FT%, 43.5 3-pt%, 26.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Shaka Arnold, G, 6-7/Sr. (2.7 rpg, 15.0 mpg); Terry Fitzgibbons, F/C, 6-10/Jr.; David Grabuloff, F, 6-7/Jr. (16.5 mpg); Chris Hall, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS); Jermaine Harmon, F, 6-7/Soph.; Chris Horne, G, 6-4/Jr. (4.3 ppg, 38.6 3-pt%, 9.7 mpg); Terence Jennings, G, 6-3/Jr.; Grant Lammersen, G, 6-5/Sr.; Sam Steen, G, 5-7/Jr. (7.2 mpg).
Top newcomers: Brian Brown, G/F, 6-5/Fr.; Scotty Scott, G, 5-11/Fr.
Strengths: Point guard Randy Bracy is a solid playmaker and a very underrated player. He will be asked to do more; so will Bobby Fitzgibbons, a solid long-range threat.
Weaknesses: Coach Charlie Woollum must replace three double-figure scorers, including the league's defensive player of the year in David Cully. The Tribe don't appear to have any capable replacements.
Outlook: It will be hard to find anyone as athletic as Carl Parker inside or someone to take up the scoring and defensive slack for Cully. Matt Verkey's outside shooting will be the easiest to fill, but the Tribe is headed for a disastrous season. This club will be lucky to win 10 games.
Last league title: 1983.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Williamsburg, Va. **Home court:** William & Mary Hall (10,000). ◆

Chuck Carree covers UNC Wilmington and the CAA for the Wilmington (N.C.) Morning Star.

BIG WEST

Conference Rank: 16

By Jason Reid

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

EASTERN DIVISION	WESTERN DIVISION
1. UTAH STATE	1. LONG BEACH ST.
2. NEVADA	2. PACIFIC
3. IDAHO	3. UC SANTA BARBARA
4. BOISE STATE	4. CAL POLY-SLO
5. NEW MEXICO ST.	5. CAL ST. FULLERTON
6. NORTH TEXAS	6. UC IRVINE

ALL-BIG WEST TEAM

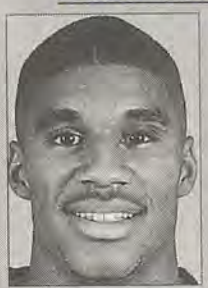
FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	JAMES COTTON, Long Beach State	6-5/200	Jr.
F	ENOCH DAVIS, New Mexico State	6-7/195	Sr.
G	ADAM JACOBSEN, Pacific	6-2/195	Sr.
C	MICHAEL OLOWOKANDI, Pacific	7-0/265	Jr.
F	KEALON WALLACE, UCSB	6-6/190	Jr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	FARON HAND, Nevada	6-7/260	Sr.
C	IKE NWANKWO, Long Beach State	6-11/250	Sr.
G	REGGIE ROSE, Idaho	6-1/173	Sr.
G	MARCUS SAXON, Utah State	6-2/195	Jr.
F	ANTWAN SMITH, Utah State	6-8/220	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



JAMES COTTON
G, Long Beach State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

MARCUS SAXON, G, Utah State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Adam Jacobsen, Pacific.

Best rebounder: Kealon Wallace, UC Santa Barbara.

Best playmaker: Tommie Davis, Long Beach State.

Best defender: Michael Olowokandi, Pacific.

Best leaper: Akeli Jackson, Long Beach State.

Best under 6 foot: Antoine Hubbard, New Mexico State.

Best over 7 foot: Michael Olowokandi, Pacific.

Most versatile: Corey Anders, Pacific.

Most flamboyant: Tommie Davis, Long Beach State.

Best NBA prospect: James Cotton, Long Beach State.

EASTERN DIVISION

1. UTAH STATE

Coach: Larry Eustachy (53-36, 3 years; 114-69 overall, 6 years).
1995-96 record: 18-15. Big West: 10-8/4th.
Starters lost (3): Eric Franson, C (16.2 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 32.8 mpg); Silas Mills, F (16.7 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.6 spg, 51.2 FG%, 30.6 mpg); Jon Wickizer, F (8.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 80.4 FT%, 31.7 mpg).
Others lost: Novich Hunter, F; Brent Moore, G/F; Jermaine Womack, G/F (2.2 rpg, 13.7 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Justin Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 76.3 FT%, **46.7 3-pt%**, 36.4 mpg); Duane Rogers, G, 6-4/Jr. (9.8 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 5.4 apg, 35.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Antwan Smith, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 18.3 mpg); Maurice Spillers, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS).
Top newcomers: Charles Brady, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Leroy Davis, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Davis Isaacson, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Cory Jones, G, 6-9/Fr.; Jamal Livingston, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Larrell Redic, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC); Kevin Rice, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Marcus Saxon, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC/RS).
Strengths: Justin Jones and Duane Rogers emerged from a crowded group of backcourt newcomers last season. They will be pushed by the addition of JC All-American Marcus Saxon. Big things are expected from Antwan Smith.
Weaknesses: Departed center Eric Franson was the heart and soul of the Aggies. And who will take over for forward Silas Mills, who was sometimes spectacular, if not always consistent.
Outlook: Coach Larry Eustachy told anyone who would listen that last season's team wasn't as good as the "experts" claimed. He was right. The Aggies struggled as the backcourt developed. Now, Eustachy has seasoned guards and a good recruiting class to take care of the frontcourt.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Logan, Utah. **Home court:** Spectrum (10,270).

2. NEVADA

Coach: Pat Foster (45-41, 3 years; 321-163, 16 years; 2-5 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-13. Big West: 9-9/T5th.
Starters lost (4): Damien Edwards, F (11.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.6 apg, 51.5 FG%, 75.5 FT%, 38.9 3-pt%, 30.8 mpg); Brian Green, G (17.9 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.6 spg, 70.2 FT%, 33.2 mpg); Dallas Spears, F (5.8 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 22.8 mpg); Daniel Watts, C (14.2 ppg, 8.1 rpg, **1.6 bpg, 65.6 FG%**, 70.3 FT%, 32.2 mpg).
Others lost: Hakim Ali Bell, F (7.4 mpg); Kevin Daley, F (transfer/UCLA); Chris Tift, G.
Starters returning (1): Tim Barnett, G, 6-2/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 33.6 3-pt%, 21.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Lamont Allen, G, 5-11/Jr. (9.0 mpg); Richard Brown, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 18.6 mpg); Kris Hackbusch, F, 6-4/Jr.; Faron Hand, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS/knee); Ryan Mahnken, F, 6-7/Soph.; David Morgan, F/C, 6-10/Jr. (4.3 rpg, 2.0 apg, 19.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Jimmy Carroll, G, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Utah); Paul Culbertson, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Robin Kennedy, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Andre McLeod, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Marvin Wilson, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Tommy Zapata, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS).
Strengths: Faron "Meat" Hand is back, meaning the frontcourt starts out as one of the conference's best. Utah transfer Jimmy Carroll has a big-time scorer's mentality, and David Morgan knows how to rebound.
Weaknesses: Who will run the team? Tim Barnett wasn't the answer; JC transfer Robin Kennedy has solid credentials but might not be ready.
Outlook: Everything fell apart last season. With Hand back, the Wolf Pack have the foundation to meet the expectations the team had a year ago.
Last league title: 1985 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1985.
Site: Reno, Nev. **Home court:** Lawlor Events Center (11,200).

3. IDAHO

Coach: Kermit Davis (1st year; 58-32 overall, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 12-16. Big Sky: 5-9/6th.
Starters lost (2): Shawn Dirden, G (10.6 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.1 spg, 74.3 FT%, 31.5 mpg); Harry Harrison, F (10.4 ppg, 10.3 rpg, 1.2 spg, 48.1 FG%, 30.8 mpg).
Others lost: James Jones, F (2.1 rpg, 15.3 mpg); Marvin Thomas, G (7.9 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Nate Gardner, C, 6-8/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 47.4 FG%, 75.8 FT%, 23.9 mpg); Reggie Rose, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.7 spg, 73.3 FT%, 32.0 mpg); Eddie Turner, G, 6-1/Sr.(10.0 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 76.4 FT%, 26.6 mpg).
Other returnees: Kris Baumann, G, 6-1/Jr. (17.0 mpg); Jason Jackman, F, 6-9/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 56.6 FG%, 80.2 FT%, 26.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Kevin Bryne, F, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Derrick Elliott, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Jon Harris, F, 6-6/Fr.; Chris Popoola, F, 6-6/Fr.; Quincey Simpson, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Troy Thompson, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Jarrett Wendt, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Reggie Rose gets to the basket and finishes well, and Eddie Turner has range and a nice touch. JC transfer Derrick Elliott is expected to run the team, and he might be as good as advertised.
Weaknesses: Rose was out of control too much last season. Rebounding could be a big problem. Jason Jackman fills it up offensively, but the Vandals could use more defense from him.
Outlook: Coach Kermit Davis begins his second stint in Moscow in a new conference and with some talent. But unless a tough guy emerges inside, the Vandals probably won't climb any higher than third.
Last league title: 1993 (Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Moscow, Idaho. **Home court:** Kibbie Dome (10,000).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

4. BOISE STATE

Coach: Rod Jensen (15-13, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 15-13. Big Sky: 10-4/T2nd.
Starters lost (1): Phil Rodman, F (10.5 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, 63.4 FG%, 27.6 mpg).
Others lost: Cale Olson, C (left school); Jason Sherrill, F (10.1 mpg); Scott Tharp, F (11.2 mpg; transfer/Hawaii-Hilo).
Starters returning (4): J.D. Huleen, C, 6-8/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 30.1 mpg); Mike Tolman, F, 6-5/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.3 spg, 39.8 3-pt%, 25.8 mpg); Gerry Washington, G, 6-1/Soph. (7.8 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 2.4 apg, 79.7 FT%, 35.7 3-pt%, 27.2 mpg); Joe Wyatt, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 75.8 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Shane Flanagan, G, 6-1/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 3.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 22.4 mpg); Mike Hagman, F, 6-5/Jr.; Steve Sheppard, G, 6-3/Jr.; Kenny Van Kirk, C, 6-10/Jr. (70.7 FT%, 10.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Roberto Bergersen, G, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/Washington); Clinton Fox, F, 6-7/Fr.; Justin Lyons, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Tony Norman, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Kejuan Woods, F, 6-6/Fr..
Strengths: The Broncos won't lack experience with eight returning lettermen and four starters. Joe Wyatt is the best of the holdovers. Roberto Bergersen and Kejuan Woods should help.
Weaknesses: A slow start hurt last season, and a repeat performance in a new conference could be big trouble. The offense was too perimeter-oriented in 1995-96.
Outlook: So many battle-tested players can make a big difference. A few close victories could put the Broncos in the hunt for a top-three finish in the division.
Last league title: 1989 (tie, Big Sky).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Boise, Idaho. **Home court:** BSU Pavilion (12,380).

5. NEW MEXICO STATE

Coach: Neil McCarthy (229-114, 11 years; 429-212 overall, 21 years; 4-9 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-15. Big West: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost (2): Marquis Burns, G, 6-4/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.1 spg, 22.1 mpg; transfer/UC Riverside); William Johnson, G (10.9 ppg, 2.0 apg, 1.3 spg, 27.5 mpg; transfer/Cameron, Okla.).
Others lost: Shawn Harrington, G (10.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 4.8 apg, 1.4 spg, 71.4 FT%, 28.1 mpg; academics); Keith Torian, G (6.4 ppg, 17.6 mpg; transfer/Southern Illinois).
Starters returning (3): Enoch Davis, F, 6-7/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 46.5 FG%, 75.9 FT%, 30.1 mpg); Charles Gosa, F, 6-8/Soph. (6.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 72.9 FT%, 23.8 mpg); Bostjan Leban, G, 6-5/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.0 spg, 41.9 3-pt%, 25.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Aaron Brodt, F, 6-8/Soph. (3.8 rpg, 18.6 mpg); Tobias Lampkin, G, 6-6/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 45.7 FG%, 20.2 mpg); Maurice Lawson, G, 6-1/Sr.; Chris Lopez, F, 6-5/Sr.
Top newcomers: Joaquin Chavez, G, 6-4/Fr. (RS); Rhonte Davis, F, 6-7/Soph. (JC); Antoine Hubbard, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Carl Laws, F, 6-7/Fr.; Denmark Reid, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Louis Richardson, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Enoch Davis is one of the conference's best returning scorers. Tobias Lampkin showed major improvement last season and Charles Gosa was the conference's top freshman. Antoine Hubbard, Carl Laws and Louis Richardson are promising recruits.
Weaknesses: Despite a lot of athleticism, there isn't a lot of size inside. The backcourt went through an upheaval when three players transferred and another left for academic reasons, though Denmark Reid was a big-time JC scorer.
Outlook: The Aggies should rebound from their first losing season in 11 seasons. If the newcomers are as good as expected, the Aggies could be right back among the elite.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Las Cruces, N.M. **Home court:** Pan American Center (13,071).

6. NORTH TEXAS

Coach: Tim Jankovich (43-41, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 15-13. Southland: 12-6/T2nd.
Starters lost (1): George King, G (8.6 ppg, 45.4 FG%, 72.2 FT%, 45.3 3-pt%, 28.0 mpg).
Others lost: Mack Jones, G (5.2 ppg, 1.3 spg, 75.6 FT%, 17.1 mpg; left school); Tony Jones, F (9.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 48.9 FG%, 71.9 FT% 25.1 mpg); Chris Smith, C (13.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 50.4 FG%, 27.8 mpg).
Starters returning (4): James Duncan, G, 5-9/Sr. (2.5 apg, 22.7 mpg); Chad Elstun, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 80.0 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 24.8 mpg); David Miller, F, 6-6/Soph. (12.7 ppg, 8.8 rpg, 1.3 spg, 49.2 FG%, 31.4 mpg); Sean Riley, C, 6-11/Soph. (5.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 53.8 FG%, 15.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Jason Neal, F, 6-7/Soph.
Top newcomers: T.J. Atkins, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Kerry Baker, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Zaveon Cooper, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Mensah Davis, G, 6-1/Fr.; Rodrick Peyton, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Chuck Thrash, F,

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6-7/Jr. (JC); Charles Washington, F, 6-7/Soph. (JC); Robert Washington, F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Four starters return, meaning coach Tim Jankovich shouldn't have to rush all of the new guys. There's a lot of size and depth in the frontcourt.
Weaknesses: The backcourt features five new players. Jankovich wants to use an up-tempo attack with lots of pressing. That's often a dangerous proposition with a roster full of inexperienced guards.
Outlook: With David Miller and Sean Riley, there's a lot to build on. The Eagles might have enough to sneak into the Big West Tournament in their first season.
Last league title: 1989 (Southland).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Denton, Texas. **Home court:** The Super Pit (10,032).

WESTERN DIVISION

1. LONG BEACH STATE

Coach: Wayne Morgan (1st year).
1995-96 record: 17-11. Big West: 12-6/1st.
Starters lost (2): Juaquin Hawkins, F (9.1 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.5 apg, 2.2 spg, 51.6 FG%, 29.8 mpg); Rasul Salahuddin, G (13.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 5.1 apg, **3.6 spg**, 46.6 FG%, 36.0 3-pt%, 33.9 mpg).
Others lost: Gerry Branner, F (8.9 mpg); Eric Brown, G (6.7 ppg, 14.6 mpg); Alberto Buzzavo, F (transfer/South Florida); Scott Catania, F (left school); Jamie Davis, G (6.0 ppg, 72.7 FT%, 16.5 mpg).
Starters returning (3): James Cotton, G, 6-5/Jr. (**19.5 ppg**, 4.1 rpg, 1.3 spg, 78.2 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 36.6 mpg); Akeli Jackson, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 50.2 FG%, 32.3 mpg); Brian Yankelevitz, C, 6-8/Sr. (3.4 rpg, 52.5 FG%, 14.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Marcus Johnson, F, 6-9/Jr. (5.9 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 53.2 FG%, 20.8 mpg); Corey Saffold, F, 6-7/Jr.; Brandon Titus, G, 6-4/Sr.
Top newcomers: D'Cean Bryant, F, 6-7/Soph. (Prop 48); Greg Clark, F, 6-7/Fr.; Tommie Davis, G, 5-9/Soph. (transfer/Houston); Quincy Nuckles, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Ike Nwankwo, C, 6-11/Sr. (transfer/UCLA; eligible second semester).
Strengths: James Cotton led the league in scoring and is one of the best players on the West Coast. Akeli Jackson has the talent to become the Big West's elite power forward, and Tommie Davis is an exciting playmaker. UCLA transfer Ike Nwankwo should be a force when he becomes eligible.
Weaknesses: Cotton and Jackson are the only key starters returning from a team that won last season's regular-season title. D'Cean Bryant and prized newcomer Greg Clark will battle for the spot alongside Jackson.
Outlook: First-year coach Wayne Morgan, a longtime Syracuse assistant, steps into a good situation—but one that includes expectations. Supporters won't settle for anything less than the 49ers repeating as regular-season titlists and returning to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the '90s.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Long Beach, Calif. **Home court:** The Pyramid (5,000).

2. PACIFIC

Coach: Bob Thomason (112-116, 8 years; 164-143 overall, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 15-12. Big West: 11-7/T2nd.
Starters lost (1): Charlie Jones, F (9.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 35.6 3-pt%, 24.4 mpg).
Others lost: Matt de la Pena, G.
Starters returning (4): Adam Jacobsen, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.7 spg, 73.3 FT%, 37.6 3-pt%, 34.3 mpg); Tim Nordahl, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 52.7 FG%, 73.3 FT%, 18.1 mpg); Monty Owens, G, 6-2/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 3.0 apg, 40.3 3-pt%, 24.6 mpg); Vic Trierweiler, C, 6-9/Sr. (6.0 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 57.4 FG%, 24.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Corey Anders, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.3 spg, 70.1 FT%, 37.0 3-pt%, 24.4 mpg); Rayne Mahaffey, F, 6-10/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 49.8 FG%, 51.1 3-pt%, 22.7 mpg); Michael Olowokandi, C, 7-0/Jr. (3.4 rpg, 1.3, bpg, 52.6 FG%, 10.3 mpg); Aaron Woliczko, F, 6-5/Jr. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Ben Esplin, F, 6-5/Fr.; Barry Marvel, F, 6-7/Fr. (RS); Bill Walton, F, 6-6/Fr.
Strengths: Four solid starters return and they complement each other nicely. Rayne Mahaffey, Michael Olowokandi and Vic Trierweiler give the Tigers a terrific trio inside.
Weaknesses: How will coach Bob Thomason find enough minutes to keep Mahaffey, Olowokandi and Trierweiler happy? Lack of backcourt quickness has hurt the Tigers the past few seasons.
Outlook: This could be the Tigers' best season since 1978-79, when they went to the NCAA Tournament. Adam Jacobsen can be counted on for points from the perimeter, and now there's a lot inside as well.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Stockton, Calif. **Home court:** Spanos Center (6,150).

3. UC SANTA BARBARA

Coach: Jerry Pimm (203-168, 13 years; 376-254 overall 22 years; 6-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-15. Big West: 8-10/T7th.
Starters lost (3): Mark Flick, F (14.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 38.8 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg); Lelan McDougal, G (18.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 45.5 FG%, 77.5 FT%, 44.1 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg); Phillip Turner, G (9.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 7.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 75.0 FT%, 33.9 mpg).

SCOUTING THE BIG WEST

Ascending: Long Beach State. The 49ers want to be the league's marquee team and this could be the start of something big.
Descending: UC Irvine. All of the offseason defections have put UCI at less than zero.
Biggest sneakers to fill: UC Irvine guard Raimonds Miglinieks'. Miglinieks—the conference MVP—led UCI to its best conference finish in eight seasons. Lamarr Parker has his hands full trying to replace him.
Most underrated player: Nevada forward/center Faron "Meat" Hand. His value was clear last season as Nevada struggled without him.
Most overrated player: Nevada guard Richard Brown. He came in with a big-time shooter's rep, then proceeded to make 34.6 percent of his field-goal attempts, including 28 percent from 3-point range.
Best recruiting class: New Mexico State. Antoine Hubbard will run the Aggies from the start. Carl Laws and Louis Richardson provide much-needed inside help.
Coach on the hot seat: UC Irvine's Rod Baker. There seems to be little Baker can do to save his job—except securing an NCAA bid. Even that might not be enough, as UCI A.D. Dan Guerrero isn't a Baker fan.
Odds and ends: NCAA officials brought the probation hammer down hard on New Mexico State, preventing the Aggies from recruiting JC players over the next two seasons. During coach Neil McCarthy's 11 years in Las Cruces, 55 JC transfers have played for the Aggies. ... North Texas, Cal Poly SLO, Idaho and Boise State are new to the league this season. The Big West lost UNLV and San Jose State to the WAC. ◆

—JASON REID

Others lost: Ben Jefferson, G/F (7.8 mpg; quit team); Wesley Miller, G (7.8 mpg; transfer/JC); Danee Prince, G (8.1 ppg, 37.8 3-pt%, 23.9 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Bakir Allen, G, 6-4/Sr. (3.1 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.0 spg, 24.4 mpg); Kealon Wallace, F, 6-6/Jr. (13.2 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 1.2 bpg, 57.5 FG%, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: B.J. Bunton, F, 6-7/Soph. (2.8 rpg, 16.2 mpg); Paul Chavez, G, 5-10/Jr.; Niall Dalton-Brown, F, 6-8/Jr. (RS/back); Jamal Johnson, G, 6-4/Jr.
Top newcomers: Leslie Bean, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Josh Merrill, F, 6-9/Soph. (transfer/Pepperdine); Matt Pinkney, F, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Matt Stock, G, 5-10/Jr. (transfer/Fresno State); Raymond Tutt, G, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Azusa Pacific); Dwayne Williams, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Kealon Wallace plays bigger—and better—than his size, which he proved by finishing fourth in the conference in rebounding. Bakir Allen is a top-notch defensive player. The Gauchos should get a boost in talent and size from newcomers.
Weaknesses: The Gauchos have six new players. That type of turnover often requires a lot of time to work things out.
Outlook: After three sub-.500 seasons, coach Jerry Pimm has lost supporters, though significant improvement is a reasonable goal.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1990.
Site: Santa Barbara, Calif. **Home court:** Thunderdome (6,000).

4. CAL POLY-SLO

Coach: Jeff Schneider (16-13, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 16-13.
Starters lost (2): Da'Monn Sanders, F (5.2 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 17.3 mpg; left school); David Sternlight, C (4.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 54.3 FG%, 16.1 mpg).
Others lost: Jim Croy, F (10.8 mpg; transfer/Westmont College); Quency Turner, F (5.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.2 spg, 18.6 mpg; left school).
Starters returning (3): Shanta Cotright, G, 6-2/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.9 spg, 48.5 FG%, 32.1 mpg); Ben Larson, G, 6-0/Soph. (12.8 ppg, 5.2 apg, 3.5 spg, 70.9 FT%, 38.2 3-pt%, 36.3 mpg); Damien Levesque, F, 6-7/Soph. (10.7 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 51.0 FG%, 24.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Brad Antonioni, G, 6-5/Sr. (5.1 ppg, 10.4 ppg); Colin Bryant, G, 6-2/Jr. (15.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.2 spg, 25.7 mpg); Steve Fleming, F, 6-5/Soph. (3.0 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 12.7 mpg); Ross Ketcham, F, 6-7/Soph. (7.4 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 72.7 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 18.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Russ Bryden, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS); Watende Favors, G, 6-3/Fr.; Eric Kinner, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Joe Madrid, C, 7-0/Jr. (JC); Mitch Ohnstad, G, 6-2/Fr.; Josh Porter, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Mike Woznak, G, 6-2/Fr.
Strengths: The backcourt should be a big plus. Ben Larson works well with Shanta Cotright. The duo is supported by long-range specialist Colin Bryant.
Weaknesses: Damien Levesque is the only returning frontcourt starter, so coach Jeff Schneider has some holes to fill. The competition will be tougher than the Mustangs are used to.
Outlook: The Mustangs spent their first two Division I seasons in the now-defunct four-team American West. There seems to be enough talent for a respectable first season in their new neighborhood.
Last league title: 1996 (American West).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: San Luis Obispo, Calif. **Home court:** Mott Gym (3,500).

5. CAL STATE FULLERTON

Coach: Bob Hawking (13-40, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 6-20. Big West: 5-13/10th.
Starters lost (1): Chuck Overton, F (15.8 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.0 spg, 75.2 FT%, 32.8 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (4): Chris Dade, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.2 spg, 73.1 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 30.7 mpg); Kenroy Jerrett, G, 5-10/Soph. (4.7 ppg, 20.2 mpg); Mark Richardson, C, 6-7/Soph. (4.8 rpg, 45.9 FG%, 73.5 FT%, 24.8 mpg); John Williams, F, 6-5/Sr. (14.2 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 28.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Andy Hinkle, F, 6-6/Jr.; Ali Nayab, G, 5-10/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 3.4 apg, 1.5 spg, 70.0 FT%, 19.6 mpg); David Ng, F, 6-8/Sr.; Dirk Rassloff, C, 6-9/Sr. (3.1 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 15.3 mpg); Chris St. Clair, G, 6-0/Jr. (RS/knee); Brian Thomas, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 1.0 spg, 19.6 mpg); DeVaughn Wright, F, 6-6/Jr. (2.4 rpg, 15.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Ike Harmon, F, 6-7/Fr.; Dane Plock, G, 6-1/Fr.; Wyki Tyson, C, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Eastern Kentucky); Craig Whitehead, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: John Williams and Chris Dade would be big contributors on any Big West team. The return of Chris St. Clair, who redshirted last season with knee problems, should help.
Weaknesses: The overall talent level still isn't high enough. Untested newcomers will be counted on.
Outlook: The program is trying to dig out of the mess created by the abrupt departure of coach Brad Holland after the 1993-94 season. Coach Bob Hawking is a good teacher, but little separates the Titans from last place.
Last league title: 1976 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1978.
Site: Fullerton, Calif. **Home court:** Titan Gymnasium (4,000).

6. UC IRVINE

Coach: Rod Baker (51-91, 5 years; 124-142 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 15-12. Big West: 11-7/T2nd.
Starters lost (4): Shaun Battle, F (10.0 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.4 spg, 63.0 FG%, 23.2 mpg); Brian Keefe, G (16.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 36.9 3-pt%, 32.3 mpg; transfer/Boston College); Raimonds Miglinieks, G (13.9 ppg, 2.9 rpg, **8.5 apg**, 1.5 spg, **79.1 FT%**, 41.9 3-pt%, 36.9 mpg); Kevin Simmons, F (15.0 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 33.2 mpg; transfer/UNLV).
Others lost: Danny Fernandez, G; Clay McKnight, G (5.2 ppg, 42.6 3-pt%, 13.9 mpg; transfer/Saddleback JC); Michael Tate, F (5.9 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 24.3 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Dan Augulis, C, 6-10/Sr. (13.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Paul Foster, F, 6-8/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 59.4 FG%, 22.6 mpg); Lamarr Parker, G, 6-1/Soph.; Boris Reznik, C, 6-9/Soph.; Ken Simpson, G, 6-3/Sr.; Juan Toscanini, G, 6-0/Soph.
Top newcomers: Andrew Carlson, C, 6-10/Fr.; Brian Johnson, F, 6-7/Fr.; Phil Negrete, G, 6-5/Fr.; Damion Pugh, G, 6-2/Fr.; Wendell Robinson, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: An us-against-the-world mentality might inspire a few victories. At times, Paul Foster showed promise last season.
Weaknesses: Center, forward and guard. Point guard Raimonds Miglinieks, the best passer in the conference, used up his eligibility. Then All-Big West performers Kevin Simmons and Brian Keefe transferred to UNLV and Boston College, respectively. he final blow came when reserve guard Clay McKnight took his smooth jumper to junior college.
Outlook: The Anteaters will struggle to score and stop opponents from doing whatever they please.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Irvine, Calif. **Home court:** Bren Events Center (5,000). ◆

Jason Reid covers Long Beach State and the Big West for the Los Angeles Times.

MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE

Conference Rank: 17

By Chick Ludwig

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. NORTHERN ILLINOIS
2. DETROIT
3. BUTLER
4. WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY
5. LOYOLA
6. WRIGHT STATE
7. CLEVELAND STATE
8. WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE
9. ILLINOIS-CHICAGO

ALL-MCC TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F/G	CHRIS COLEMAN, N. Illinois	6-3/202	Sr.
C/F	T.J. LUX, N. Illinois	6-8/201	Soph.
G	MARK MILLER, Ill.-Chicago	6-2/185	Jr.
G	DEREK MOLIS, Loyola	6-4/190	Sr.
F	CARL PICKETT, Detroit	6-4/200	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	JAVAN GOODMAN, Loyola	6-8/215	Soph.
G	JERMAINE JACKSON, Detroit	6-4/180	Soph.
F	RODERICK JOHNSON, UW-Milw.	6-5/195	Soph.
G	RONALD MINTER, N. Illinois	5-9/158	Sr.
F	JON NEUHOUSER, Butler	6-6/215	Jr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

T.J. LUX
C/F, Northern Illinois

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

DERRICK HAYES, G, Detroit

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Derek Molis, Loyola.

Best rebounder: T.J. Lux, Northern Illinois.

Best playmaker: Ronald Minter, Northern Illinois.

Best defender: Roderick Johnson, Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Best leaper: Carl Pickett, Detroit.

Best under 6 foot: Ronald Minter, Northern Illinois.

Best over 7 foot: Rolf van Rijn, Butler.

Most versatile: Chris Coleman, Northern Illinois.

Most flamboyant: Mark Miller, Illinois-Chicago.

Best NBA prospect: Rolf van Rijn, Butler.

1. NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Brian Hammel (75-66, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-10. MCC: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Texas Tech in NCAA East first round.
Starters lost (2): Mike Hartke, F (7.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 59.7 FG%, 18.0 mpg); Vaurice Patterson, G (8.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.5 spg, 79.2 FT%, 37.8 3-pt%, 33.3 mpg).
Others lost: Brad Johnson, F (quit team); James Patterson, C/F, 6-6/Soph. (left school); Jamal Robinson, F (14.4 ppg, 8.3 rpg, 2.1 apg, 47.8 FG%, 32.9 mpg); Marlin Simms, G/F (5.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 32.7 3-pt%, 13.5 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Chris Coleman, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (14.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 35.8 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg); T.J. Lux, C/F, 6-8/Soph. (15.2 ppg, 8.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 54.7 FG%, 32.4 3-pt%, 30.4 mpg); Ronald Minter, G, 5-9/Sr. (12.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 4.4 apg, 1.8 spg, 76.7 FT%, 32.2 mpg).
Other returnees: Tywon Burnom, F, 6-6/Soph.; Thomas Cook, G, 6-2/Sr.; Mark Holland, F, 6-5/Soph.; Donte Parker, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 47.3 3-pt%, 29.9 mpg); Pete Rohlwing, C/F, 6-8/Sr. (10.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dwayne Austin, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/DePaul); Torrence Hughes, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Rey Jones, G/F, 6-2/Fr.; Jeremy Roach, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Bruce Sain, F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Brian Hammel's teams are quick and tenacious. Add shooters and experience and you have a winner. Ronald Minter, Chris Coleman and T.J. Lux provide a solid foundation for the MCC Tournament champs. Donte Parker takes Vaurice Patterson's spot at off-guard. The team will use several power forwards, led by bruising Pete Rohlwing.
Weaknesses: Depth needs to be developed. Also, the Huskies will miss power forward Mike Hartke; who decided not to return for a fifth season; he is bound for medical school.
Outlook: With so much talent, the Huskies should be dancing again in March, leaving the conference a winner before they head for the Mid-American Conference in 1997-98.
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: DeKalb, Ill. **Home court:** Evans Field House (6,044).

2. DETROIT

Coach: Perry Watson (47-39, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 18-11. MCC: 8-8/T4th.
Starters lost (1): Iyapo Montgomery, G (9.2 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 73.8 FT%, 38.1 3-pt%, 27.2 mpg).
Others lost: Guido LeGardy, F (2.3 rpg, 49.1 FG%, 11.4 mpg); Kamau Alexander, F/G (5.1 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 22.2 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Brian Alexander, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 19.6 mpg); Leon Derricks, F/C, 6-9/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 31.0 mpg); Jermaine Jackson, G, 6-4/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.0 spg, 36.2 3-pt%, 35.4 mpg); Carl Pickett, F, 6-4/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.6 spg, 75.3 FT%, 28.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Terrance Porter, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.8 mpg); Perry Robinson, F, 6-7/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 11.0 mpg); Sean Smith, G, 5-11/ Sr.; Jamale Turner, F, 6-7/Jr. (RS/thumb).
Top newcomers: EJ Haralson, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Derrick Hayes, G, 6-5/Jr. (transfer/Iowa State); John Morrison, F, 6-6/Soph. (transfer/Tennessee State); Rashad Phillips, G, 5-8/Fr.
Strengths: The Titans, already strong defensively, have more outside scoring punch to go with 6-9 twin towers Leon Derricks and Brian Alexander. Derrick Hayes, a transfer from Iowa State who fills Iyapo Montgomery's spot at off-guard, will take some pressure off relentless small forward Carl Pickett. Sleek point guard Jermaine Jackson finally has backup help in Rashad Phillips.
Weaknesses: Defense isn't a problem (the Titans ranked 13th nationally in field-goal percentage defense at 39.7), but inside scoring can be.
Outlook: Detroit matured quite a bit on its way to the MCC Tournament title game. All the ingredients are there to make a run at the title.
Last league title: None.
Last time made NCAA field: 1979.
Site: Detroit. **Home court:** Calihan Hall (8,837).

3. BUTLER

Coach: Barry Collier (106-93, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 19-8. MCC: 12-4/2nd.
Starters lost (2): Jason McKenzie, G (5.9 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 78.4 FT%, 21.1 mpg); Chris Miskel, F (10.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 2.2 apg, 46.7 FG%, 32.1 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): Jon Neuhouser, F, 6-6/Jr. (12.6 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 2.3 apg, 53.8 FG%, 42.3 3-pt%, 30.7 mpg); Jeff Rogers, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 45.2 FG%, 81.8 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 28.3 mpg); Rolf van Rijn, C, 7-2/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.7 bpg, 60.1 FG%, 24.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Dan Dudukovich, G/F, 6-4/Jr.; Bjorn Gieseck, F, 6-9/Soph.; Matthew Graves, G, 6-3/Jr. (9.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 84.2 FT%, 41.7 3-pt%, 17.8 mpg); Andy Hirschy, G, 6-1/Soph.; T.J. Perry, F, 6-9/Sr. (2.9 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 10.9 mpg); Mike Pflugner, F, 6-6/Soph.; Srdan Selimbegovic, G, 6-4/Soph.; Kelsey Wilson, F, 6-4/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 77.2 FT%, 19.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Andrew Graves, G, 6-3/Fr.; Mike Marshall, F, 6-4/Fr.
Strengths: The Bulldogs aren't flamboyant, just solid, deep and well-balanced. Kelsey Wilson is due for a big season at small forward. Off-guard Matthew Graves joins Jeff Rogers in the backcourt. Jon Neuhouser is one of the steadiest players in the conference.
Weaknesses: There isn't much scoring potential on the bench, and the Bulldogs always seem to burn out at season's end. They have lost their first game of the MCC Tournament 14 times (no titles) in the 17-year history of the tournament.
Outlook: Butler will be in the hunt all season. But until the Bulldogs break through at tournament time, they won't get the respect they feel they deserve.
Last league title: 1947 (tie, MAC).
Last time made NCAA field: 1962.
Site: Indianapolis. **Home court:** Hinkle Fieldhouse (11,043).

4. WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

Coach: Mike Heideman (25-4, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 25-4. MCC: 16-0/1st. Lost to Virginia Tech in NCAA Midwest first round.
Starters lost (4): Ben Berlowski, G (15.1 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.0 apg, 83.8 FT%, 44.8 3-pt%, 33.6 mpg); Gary Grzesk, F (5.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.7 spg, 53.3 FG%, 74.2 FT%, 37.1 mpg); Eric Jackson, G (5.9 ppg, 3.6 apg, 74.5 FT%, 35.6 3-pt%, 28.9 mpg); Jeff Nordgaard, F (22.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 55.4 FG%, 71.0 FT%, 39.8 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (1): Pete Wade, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 85.1 FT%, 17.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Tom Anderson, F, 6-4/Jr. (4.0 ppg, 45.6 FG%, 11.1 mpg); Ryan Borowicz, G, 6-1/Soph. (RS); James Daggs, F, 6-8/Soph.; Todd Hassenfelt, F, 6-7/Soph.; Matt Hill, C, 6-11/Soph. (10.1 mpg); Luke Kiss, G, 6-1/Soph.; Mike Nabena, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.7 mpg); Kevin Olm, G, 6-4/Jr. (2.1 apg, 51.0 FG%, 17.6 mpg); Gabe Stevens, F, 6-5/Jr.
Top newcomers: Jerry Carstensen, F, 6-6/Fr.; Sherm Carstensen, F, 6-7/Fr.; B.J. LaRue, G, 6-3/Fr.; Jeremy Pfister, G, 6-5/Fr.; Wayne Walker, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The names change, but the system doesn't. Second-year coach Mike Heideman uses the same swarming defense and motion offense that Dick Bennett used for 10 seasons before moving to Wisconsin. Luke Kiss is a capable point guard, and recruits Jeremy Pfister and B.J. LaRue are fine 3-point shooters.
Weaknesses: Maintaining discipline might be a challenge with four new starters, as the Phoenix attempt to lead the league again in team defense (55.9 points per game last season) and assists (16.8 per game).
Outlook: The Phoenix probably won't play in a fourth consecutive NCAA Tournament, but the winning tradition will continue.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Green Bay, Wis. **Home court:** Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena (5,600).

5. LOYOLA

Coach: Ken Burmeister (13-41, 2 years; 85-85 overall, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 8-19. MCC: 5-11/T6th.
Starters lost (1): Theodis Owens, G (9.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 5.3 apg, 1.4 spg, 76.1 FT%, 32.0 mpg).
Others lost: Ray Collum, G (10.6 mpg; quit team); Matt D'Antoni, G (transfer); Joe Estes, F (6.8 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 37.5 3-pt%, 17.2 mpg); Joe Warnke, F (transfer/North Florida).
Starters returning (4): Donyale Bush, F/C, 6-7/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 57.6 FG%, 28.7 mpg); Javan Goodman, F, 6-8/Soph. (9.8 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 50.5 FG%, 29.6 mpg); Derek Molis, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.0 spg, 72.7 FT%, 37.4 3-pt%, 33.4 mpg); Charles Smith, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.7 spg, 25.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Yann Barbic, G, 6-5/Sr.; Matt Jung, G, 6-3/Sr.; Drew Petersen, F, 6-8/Sr.; JaJa Richards, C, 6-11/Sr. (3.4 rpg, 15.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Greg Adams, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Earl Brown, G, 6-1/Fr.; Dominic Okon, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Damien McSwine,

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

6-5/Fr.
Strengths: The Ramblers' five MCC wins were the most since they tied Evansville for the league crown (8-4) in 1986-87. Javan Goodman and Donyale Bush are bullish inside, and Derek Molis is one of the league's top 3-point bombers. A solid inside-outside game makes the Ramblers a contender.
Weaknesses: The loss of MCC assists leader Theodis Owens (5.3 per game) hurts. Coach Ken Burmeister recruited gritty Earl Brown to replace Owens and play alongside off-guard Charles Smith. But having the ball in a freshman's hands is a scary situation.
Outlook: Burmeister is recruiting the talent needed to succeed. The Ramblers aren't quite there yet, but they're steadily improving.
Last league title: 1987 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1985.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Loyola Event Center (5,200).

6. WRIGHT STATE

Coach: Ralph Underhill (356-162, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 14-13. MCC: 8-8/T4th.
Starters lost (3): Terrance Cast, G (6.2 ppg, 2.2 apg, 1.2 spg, 18.5 mpg; transfer); Delme Herriman, F (9.3 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.7 apg, 49.7 FG%, 30.7 mpg); Vitaly Potapenko, C (20.7 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 60.4 FG%, 71.6 FT%, 31.0 mpg; declared for NBA draft).
Others lost: Antuan Johnson, F, 6-6/Jr. (7.3 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 19.2 mpg/academics).
Starters returning (2): Keion Brooks, G, 6-3/Soph. (12.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.5 spg, 31.2 mpg); Rob Welch, G, 6-2/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.6 spg, 29.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Anthony Brown, G, 6-4/Soph.; Thad Burton, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.4 mpg); Mike Conner, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 53.7 FG%, 70.6 FT%, 16.1 mpg); Steno Kos, C, 6-11/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 13.3 mpg); Derek Watkins, G, 6-0/Jr.
Top newcomers: Ryan Grose, F, 6-7/Fr.; Wilbert Krol, C, 7-0/Fr.; Lequient Lewis, F, 6-6/Fr.; Mark Oliver, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Erik Ramsey, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/Lee College); Mike Richardson, G, 6-0/Fr.; De' Andre Shepard, F, 6-6/Fr.; John Sivesind, G, 6-3/Fr.; Steve Yeagle, F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: The perimeter game. After the departure of hulking center Vitaly Potapenko, the Raiders' emphasis immediately shifted outside. Rob Welch and Keion Brooks will anchor a three-guard offense that will offer considerable playing time to recruits Mike Richardson and John Sivesind.
Weaknesses: The team has to find a new front line. The pressure will be on Steno Kos, Mike "The Rifleman" Conner and Thad Burton to step up their games.
Outlook: If their psyche isn't destroyed by non-conference games at Kentucky and Louisville, the Raiders could make some noise, especially with the MCC Tournament on their floor for the third consecutive year.
Last league title: None.
Last time made NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Dayton, Ohio. **Home court:** Ervin J. Nutter Center (10,632).

7. CLEVELAND STATE

Coach: Rollie Massimino (1st year; 427-278 overall, 23 years; 20-10 NCAA Tournament record/won championship in '85).
1995-96 record: 5-21. MCC: 3-13/9th.
Starters lost (1): Joe Rey, G (8.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.5 apg, 35.3 3-pt%, 29.0 mpg).
Others lost: Robert Lewis, C (transfer/Kutztown); Keith Roberson, F (5.9 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 51.0 FG%, 22.8 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Eric Nichelson, C, 6-11/Sr. (11.5 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 48.1 FG%, 79.6 FT%, 30.7 mpg); Corey Robinson, G, 6-3/Jr. (7.7 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 26.3 mpg); Leo Skoutaris, G, 6-7/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 23.1 mpg); Derrick Zeigler, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 1.0 spg, 31.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Brian Hocevar, F, 6-8/Jr. (13.8 mpg); Elwyn McRoy, G, 5-7/Sr. (4.5 ppg, 1.0 spg, 24.8 mpg); Malcolm Sims, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (left team after 1994-95 season).
Top newcomers: Gary Brewster, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Chris Dames, F, 6-6/Fr.; Lee Klag, C, 6-11/Fr.; James Madison, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS/knee); Ryan White, G, 5-11/Fr.
Strengths: The Vikings have plenty of experience, and coach Rollie Massimino has begun to instill discipline in a program that was too loose under Mike Boyd. Eric Nichelson is the best of four returning starters. James Madison should make an impact at off-guard after sitting out last season. Malcolm Sims also returns after quitting the team after the 1994-95 season. Sims, who averaged 10.9 points and 3.6 rebounds that season, is a former Indiana transfer.
Weaknesses: After Nichelson, the front line is small. And team confidence will be hard to turn around after a horrible 5-21 season.
Outlook: The Rollie Factor alone should be worth some victories. Massimino will make sure his team spills lots of sweat. If the Vikings can play Georgetown and Michigan tough at home, they'll be oozing confidence when league play starts.
Last league title: 1993 (Mid-Continent).
Last time made NCAA field: 1986.
Site: Cleveland. **Home court:** CSU Convocation Center (13,610).

8. WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

Coach: Ric Cobb (9-18, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 9-18. MCC: 5-11/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Mark Briggs, G (10.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 73.3 FT%, 30.1 mpg); Derek Durham, G (11.7 ppg, 4.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 78.2 FT%, 33.0 mpg); Shannon Smith, F (11.7 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.5 spg, 38.2 3-pt%, 24.3 mpg).
Others lost: Scott Dougherty F (8.7 mpg); Jutiki Smith, G (6.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1.5 spg, 71.7 FT%, 38.8 3-pt%, 19.2 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Roderick Johnson, F, 6-5/Soph. (14.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 1.9 spg, 50.0 FG%, 71.3 FT%, 29.0 mpg); Otto McDuffie, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 1.3 spg, 50.4 FG%, 22.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Kelvin Anderson, G, 6-0/Sr. (RS/knee); Brodie Ewert, C, 6-10/Soph. (8.5 mpg); Pat McCabe, G, 6-4/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 38.3 3-pt%, 18.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Cyrus Caldwell, G, 6-1/Soph. (Prop 48); John Gilmore, F, 6-7/Fr.; Anthony Holley, G, 5-10/Fr.; Dan Johnson, G, 6-2/Fr. (RS); Brodney Kennard, F, 6-8/Fr.; Kenny Parker Jr., F, 6-5/Fr.; Chris Pulliams, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Sean Stackhouse, G, 6-2/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Roderick Johnson is a block of granite, and coach Ric Cobb is building the team around him with four recruits from Texas: John Gilmore, Brodney Kennard, Anthony Holley and Chris Pulliams. Otto McDuffie will provide some punch, and Pat McCabe is a dangerous shooter.
Weaknesses: The Panthers don't know how to win yet. They lost seven games by five points or fewer last season. Mix in the loss of three starters and that spells trouble. The team needs senior Kelvin Anderson to assume leadership.
Outlook: This young team with only a sprinkle of veterans will struggle.
Last league title: None.
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Milwaukee. **Home court:** MECCA Arena (11,052).

9. ILLINOIS-CHICAGO

Coach: Jimmy Collins (1st year).
1995-96 record: 10-18. MCC: 5-11/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Shawn Harlan, F/G (12.4 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.9 spg, 80.5 FT%, 38.1 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg); Mike Lampley, F (6.8 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 56.9 FG%, 20.6 mpg); Johnelle Slone, F (14.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 78.1 FT%, 29.7 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Theandre Kimbrough, G, 6-2/Soph. (7.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.0 spg, 37.1 3-pt%, 22.3 mpg); Mark Miller, G, 6-2/Jr. (17.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.5 apg, 2.0 spg, 71.0 FT%, 33.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Chris Christensen, G/F, 6-4/Soph.; Anton Collins, F, 6-8/Soph. (7.5 mpg); David Greer, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.0 spg, 50.8 FG%, 17.0 mpg); Ricardo Hale, F, 6-7/Sr. (2.8 rpg, 14.9 mpg); Mike King, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 43.8 3-pt%, 19.7 mpg); Jason Strojinc, G, 6-3/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 35.6 3-pt%, 12.9 mpg).
Top newcomers: Anthony Coomes, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Clifton Flagg, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Clifton Jackson, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Jimmy Sexton, G, 6-4/Soph. (transfer/Creighton); Leonard Walker, F, 6-4/Fr.
Strengths: The Flames always put great athletes on the floor. JC star Anthony Coomes, son of assistant coach Mark Coomes, takes over at point guard, allowing Mark Miller to move to off-guard. They form one of the league's most explosive backcourts.
Weaknesses: The inside game. Replacing the skill and savvy of Shawn Harlan, Johnelle Slone and Mike Lampley won't be easy. The Flames will make do with newcomers Clifton Jackson and Clifton Flagg. Experienced forwards Mike King and Ricardo Hale must step up.
Outlook: Jimmy Collins, a former Illinois assistant, will stress a disciplined style of play and has high expectations. Flames fans shouldn't—at least this season. Collins says the Flames will be disciplined, which would be quite a change from former coach Bob Hallberg's run-and-gun regime.
Last league title: 1984 (Mid-Continent).
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** UIC Pavilion (8,000). ◆

Chick Ludwig covers the MCC for the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News.

SCOUTING THE MIDWESTERN COLLEGIATE

Ascending: Detroit. Coach Perry Watson's Titans are loaded and have only two senior starters in Carl Pickett and Leon Derricks.
Descending: Wisconsin-Green Bay. But not much. Still, losing four starters will make it difficult for the Phoenix to repeat as regular-season champion.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Wright State center Vitaly Potapenko's. Now that the "Ukraine Train" is playing for the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, the Raiders will rely on Steno Kos, a 6-11 Austrian, to fill the void.
Most underrated player: Butler center Rolf van Rijn. He's a space-eater who keeps improving.
Most overrated player: Illinois-Chicago guard Mark Miller. He is a fine athlete, but he's also a ball hog who shot 40.4 percent.
Best recruiting class: Wright State. The Raiders have nine newcomers spanning all positions. Mike Richardson, an all-state guard from Kentucky, is the best of the bunch.
Coach on the hot seat: Wright State's Ralph Underhill. School president Harley E. Flack grudgingly gave him a two-year extension through the 1997-98 season. A clause in the contract states: "Ranking below the top 150 (in the Rating Percentage Index) may be considered a material breach of this Agreement."
Odds and ends: Rollie Massimino, who took over at Cleveland State in April, has folks excited about college hoops in a pro town. Massimino threw out the first pitch at an Indians' game and helped kick off a season-ticket campaign in which school officials hoped to sell 50 tickets on one night. They sold 400 in four hours. It helps when you open the season at home against Georgetown. Massimino masterminded Villanova's 66-64 victory over Georgetown for the 1985 NCAA Championship. ... Coming off an NCAA Tournament appearance, Northern Illinois hopes to improve on its 1995-96 home attendance of 2,718 at 6,044-seat Chick Evans Field House. ... Butler recruit Mike Marshall was an all-state linebacker at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati. ... Detroit's Leon Derricks had surgery on a torn ligament in his right shooting thumb and won't have to wear a brace that restricted him as a junior. ... The new Loyola Event Center (capacity 5,200) should help opponents, who couldn't breath in tiny Alumni Gym (2,975). ◆

—CHICK LUDWIG

AMERICA EAST

Conference Rank: 18

By Michael Bradley

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. DREXEL
2. BOSTON UNIVERSITY
3. DELAWARE
4. HARTFORD
5. NORTHEASTERN
6. HOFSTRA
7. TOWSON STATE
8. NEW HAMPSHIRE
9. MAINE
10. VERMONT

ALL-AMERICA EAST TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	TUNJI AWOJOBI, Boston U.	6-7/230	Sr.
G	DARIUS BURTON, Hofstra	5-9/165	Sr.
F	RYAN HOWSE, Hartford	6-8/237	Jr.
G	JEFF MYERS, Drexel	6-2/185	Sr.
F	GREG SMITH, Delaware	6-7/235	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F	PECA ARSIC, Delaware	6-9/234	Sr.
C	JOEY BEARD, Boston U.	6-10/225	Jr.
G	MIKE DeROCCKIS, Drexel	6-2/180	Soph.
F	CHUCK GUITTAR, Drexel	6-9/225	Sr.
G	LeVAR FOLK, Boston U.	5-10/175	Soph.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

TUNJI AWOJOBI
F, Boston U.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

CRAIG CLAXTON, G, Hofstra

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Mike DeRocckis, Drexel.

Best rebounder: Tunji Awojobi, Boston U.

Best playmaker: Darius Burton, Hofstra.

Best defender: Darius Burton, Hofstra.

Best leaper: Tunji Awojobi, Boston U.

Best under 6 foot: Darius Burton, Hofstra.

Best over 7 foot: None.

Most versatile: Jeff Myers, Drexel.

Most flamboyant: Tunji Awojobi, Boston U.

Best NBA prospect: Tunji Awojobi, Boston U.

1. DREXEL

Coach: Bill Herrion (112-38, 5 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 27-4. NAC: 17-1/1st. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA West second round.
Starters lost (2): Cornelius Overby, G (9.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.3 spg, 75.8 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg); Malik Rose, C (20.2 ppg, **13.2 rpg**, 1.1 spg, 59.5 FG%, 71.4 FT%, 31.4 mpg).
Others lost: George Hudgins, F (2.9 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 8.7 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Mike DeRocckis, G, 6-2, Soph. (13.4 ppg, 2.6 apg, 47.0 FG%, 82.5 FT%, 47.8 3-pt%, 32.3 mpg); Chuck Guittar, F/C, 6-9, Sr. (9.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 77.8 FT%, 35.0 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg); Jeff Myers, G/F, 6-2, Sr. (18.7 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.7 spg, 49.7 FG%, 71.5 FT%, 42.7 3-pt%, 33.5 mpg).
Other returnees: Karl Fischer, G/F, 6-2/Sr.; David Frey, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.5 mpg); Greg Gaffney, G, 5-8/Soph. (10.4 mpg); Ross Neisler, G, 6-3/Soph. (10.4 mpg); Brahin Riley, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Bryant Coursey, G, 6-1/Fr.; Tom Dearborn, G, 6-2/Fr.; Joe Linderman, F, 6-8/Fr.; Petrick Sanders, F, 6-6/Fr.; Rodney Rodgers, F, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: The Dragons may have the league's best backcourt in Jeff Myers and Mike DeRocckis, a first-rate long-range shooter. Chuck Guittar has the ability to become a considerable inside force but also has the range to hit outside. The recruiting class is one of the best in school history.
Weaknesses: The loss of two-time league player of the year Malik Rose leaves a considerable void, particularly in rebounding. Since 1973, only Syracuse's Derrick Coleman had more rebounds in his NCAA career than Rose's 1,514. The Dragons also must find reliable frontcourt scoring from inconsistent Brahin Riley and freshman Rodney Rogers.
Outlook: The Dragons won their first NCAA Tournament game last season (over Memphis) and appear primed for another postseason appearance. But excellent coach Bill Herrion has some work to do. The frontcourt must be reshaped and more scoring needs to be found. But Herrion does have options. He can do the rest.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** Physical Education Athletic Center (2,300).

2. BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Coach: Dennis Wolff (33-27, 2 years; 63-45 overall, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 18-11. NAC: 13-5/2nd.
Starters lost (1): Raja Bell, F (15.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 1.2 spg, 33.3 mpg; transfer).
Others lost: Steve Ehretsman, G (4.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 16.1 mpg); John Brennan, F.
Starters returning (4): Tunji Awojobi, F, 6-7/Sr. (22.7 ppg, 10.8 rpg, 1.9 spg, 2.0 bpg, 58.2 FG%, 70.6 FT%, 35.1 mpg); Joey Beard, C, 6-10/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 50.3 FG%, 29.1 mpg); LeVar Folk, G, 5-10/Soph. (9.7 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.9 apg, 1.6 spg, 32.6 mpg); Jim Schwartz, G, 6-3/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.8 apg, 75.0 FT%, 26.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Billy Beal, G, 6-1/Soph. (10.2 mpg); Yusef Delayeffitte, F, 6-5/Sr. (2.5 rpg, 12.3 mpg); B.J. Fearrington, G, 5-11/Jr. (2.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 15.5 mpg); Ken Michin, F, 6-10/Soph.; Peter Scott, G, 6-1/Soph.
Top newcomers: Jean Avebe, F, 6-7/Fr.; Mike Costello, G, 6-4/Fr.; Alexi Giannoulias, G, 6-2/Soph. (transfer/Univ. of Chicago).
Strengths: The Terriers return four starters, including powerhouse forward Tunji Awojobi. LeVar Folk is a promising point man who needs to cut down on turnovers, and Joey Beard could be primed for a breakthrough year.
Weaknesses: BU shot 27.5 percent from 3-point range last season and is extremely susceptible to collapsing defenses. Coach Dennis Wolff needs transfer Alexi Giannoulias to be effective from the outside, or Awojobi will feel like he's on a New York subway car all season.
Outlook: BU has enough to challenge Drexel for the title, provided it finds some outside shooting. Awojobi is quite a weapon and should attract some NBA attention, and Beard has uncommon skills for a 6-10 player. A postseason berth depends on the perimeter play.
Last league title: 1983 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1990.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Case Gym (2,500).

3. DELAWARE

Coach: Mike Brey (15-12, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 15-12. NAC: 11-7/T3rd.
Starters lost (3): Patrick Evans, C (13.5 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 1.3 spg, 1.6 bpg, 56.9 FG%, 80.2 FT%, 34.2 mpg); Rob Garner, G (8.6 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 5.7 apg, 1.5 spg, 35.4 mpg); Bruce McCullough, G (6.3 ppg, 80.0 FT%, 30.4 mpg).
Others lost: Darrin Anderson, C; Matt Strine, C (7.2 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Peca Arsic, F, 6-9/Sr. (17.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.3 spg, 76.3 FT%, 43.6 3-pt%, 30.9 mpg); Greg Smith, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 8.1 rpg, **61.3 FG%**, 80.9 FT%, 31.2 mpg).
Other returnees: John Bennett, C, 6-10/Soph.; Fred Gonzalez, F, 6-9/Soph.; Tobias Mullen, G/F, 6-4/Soph.; Tyrone Perry, G, 5-11/Soph. (6.9 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 76.9 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 23.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Keith Davis, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (transfer/Virginia Commonwealth); Kestutis Marciulionis, G, 6-2/Fr.; Greg Miller, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Josh Ormond, F, 6-8/Fr.; Mike Pegues, F, 6-5/Fr.; Jared Stinson, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (transfer/Manhattan).
Strengths: Though only two starters return, Delaware could be the league's top shooting team again. Greg Smith, a solid inside scorer, was all-conference last season, and Peca Arsic could join him this season. Coach Mike Brey has assembled a solid recruiting class for the second consecutive year.
Weaknesses: Tyrone Perry showed that he could handle the point on occasion last season, but he had more turnovers than assists and needs to improve his decision-making. The Blue Hens must rely on transfers—Keith Davis and Jared Stinson—for perimeter scoring.
Outlook: Brey is building a league power and already has established himself as America East's top recruiter. This team will rely heavily on the Arsic-Smith duo up front. But by season's end, the perimeter trio of Perry, Davis and Stinson could be dangerous.
Last league title: 1992.
Last time made NCAA field: 1993.
Site: Newark, Del. **Home court:** Bob Carpenter Center (5,000).

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

4. HARTFORD

Coach: Paul Brazeau (47-64, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 6-22. NAC: 5-13/T7th.
Starters lost (1): Mike Richardson, F (14.7 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 1.4 spg, **85.9 FT%**, 29.1 mpg; transfer).
Others lost: Tim Davis, G/F (6.7 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 18.1 mpg; transfer/Davis & Elkins, W.Va.); Chris Ford, F (transfer/Western Connecticut State); Roland Hannah, F (4.0 rpg, 14.8 mpg; transfer/McCook CC).
Starters returning (4): Justin Bailey, G, 6-1/Soph. (12.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.5 apg, 1.8 spg, 77.7 FT%, 29.1 mpg); Chris Eames, G, 6-7/Soph. (6.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 54.9 FG%, 22.5 mpg); Michael Griffin, G, 5-10/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 5.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 30.3 mpg); Ryan Howse, C, 6-8/Jr. (16.0 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 48.1 FG%, 33.7 mpg).
Other returnees: Keith Bike, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 3.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 87.9 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 19.4 mpg); Jaron Brown, F, 6-4/Soph.; Dale Landrith, C, 6-8/Soph. (9.5 mpg); Sean Smith, G, 6-7/Soph. (8.7 mpg); Sean Tabb, G, 6-3/Jr. (14.3 mpg); Chris Young, F, 6-6/Sr.
Top newcomers: Anthony Bethune, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/New Haven); Darrick Jackson, G, 5-10/Fr.
Strengths: Four starters return from one of the youngest teams in the conference. Michael Griffin is a good distributor but must make better choices. Ryan Howse could be a 20-10 guy before he's done with the Hawks, and Justin Bailey shows signs of being a reliable scorer. Newcomers Anthony Bethune and Darrick Jackson should help right away.
Weaknesses: The Hawks didn't shoot well last season, and they need somebody besides Howse (maybe Bethune or Chris Eames?) to provide rebounding help. Team defense also was a concern last season; opponents shot 46.2 percent from the field.
Outlook: Hartford is still a year away from contention, but the Hawks should be much better than last season. Howse is a keeper, and if Griffin can take better care of the ball, the Hawks should be a solid offensive team.
Last league title: None.
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Hartford, Conn. **Home court:** The Sports Center (4,475).

5. NORTHEASTERN

Coach: Rudy Keeling (1st year; 106-122 overall, 8 years).
1995-96 record: 4-24. NAC: 2-16/10th.
Starters lost (4): Edwin Harmon, C (7.2 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 46.9 FG%, 23.0 mpg); Lonnie Harrell, F/G (16.6 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1 spg, 1 bpg, 75 FG%, 28.7 mpg); Damon Singletary, G (9.3 ppg, 32.6 mpg); Marcus Willis, G (9.9 ppg, 71.4 FT%, 3.3 rpg, 1 spg, 26.3 mpg).
Others lost: Arturo Clemente, G; Clyde Fraser, F (53.8 FG%, 3.4 rpg, 15.7 mpg); Jose Powell, G (73.3 FT%, 11.6 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Lin Lattimore, F, 6-7/Soph. (6.2 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 22.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Prentis Baker, F, 6-6/Soph. (8.6 mpg); Mario Cox, F, 6-5/Jr. (46.2 FG%, 10.3 mpg); Scott Martin, G, 6-3/Jr.; John McGraw, F, 6-7/Sr.; Sylvester McIntosh, G, 6-4/Soph. (6.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 17.9 mpg); Harold Miller, G, 5-10/Soph. (10 mpg); Al Rue, G, 5-10/Soph.
Top newcomers: Changa Adams, C, 6-10/Fr.; Lamont Clark, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Chris Gordon, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Lake Superior State); Jaakan Grimes, F, 6-7/Soph. (transfer/Fork Union Military Academy); Terry Kringe, G, 6-2/Fr.; Tyrone Mack, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Kirk Salesman, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The Huskies provide definitive proof that the league is growing up. Five transfers, including three former JC players, join the team. Seven new faces in all should make Northeastern a more physical team, particularly when banger Lamont Clark teams with 6-7, 240-pound sophomore Lin Lattimore. JC transfer Tyrone Mack should be a productive scorer, and freshman Changa Adams will block plenty of shots.
Weaknesses: The Huskies need freshman Terry Kringe to take over at the point or there will be big trouble. The team

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

also needs to develop a few outside shooters; it shot 27.8 percent from 3-point range last season.
Outlook: Former Maine coach Rudy Keeling takes over at Northeastern, and he figures a new coach deserves new players—lots of them. The Huskies will do much better than the 10th-place finish they produced a year ago, but there is a possibility of erratic play.
Last league title: 1993 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Boston. **Home court:** Matthews Arena (6,000).

6. HOFSTRA

Coach: Jay Wright (19-36, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 9-18. NAC: 5-13/T7th.
Starters lost (1): Seth Meyers, F (10.6 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.4 spg, 41.2 3-pt%, 27.6 mpg; left school).
Others lost: Matt Carpenter, C; Jamil Greene, F/C (5.5 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 52.0 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 16.2 mpg); Chris Johnke, C; Rob Ogden, F (7.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 16.2 mpg); Chris Parsons, F (14.4 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Darius Burton, G, 5-9/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, **6.3 apg, 2.6 spg**, 72.7 FT%, 36.5 mpg); Ahmad Jackson, F/C, 6-9/Soph. (8.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 51.9 FG%, 23.0 mpg); James Parisi, F, 6-5/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 19.8 mpg); Lawrence Thomas, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 56.5 3-pt%, 29.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Tim Beckett, F, 6-8/Soph. (5.4 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 18.6 mpg); Anthony Davis, G, 6-0/Soph. (7.3 ppg, 37.2 3-pt%, 19.7 mpg); Tom Marich, G, 6-2/Jr.
Top newcomers: Franklin Barr, C, 6-11/Fr.; Joe Brown, F, 6-7/Fr.; Craig Claxton, G, 5-10/Fr.; Lance Dunkley, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Stanley Martin, F, 6-4/Soph. (Prop 48); Duane Posey, C/F, 6-7/Soph. (transfer/Fairleigh Dickinson); Roger Roberts, G, 5-10/Fr..
Strengths: Darius Burton is a blur who had twice as many assists as turnovers last season. Ahmad Jackson has the game and body to be an inside force, and Anthony Davis has pretty good range. A fine recruiting class, led by point guard Craig Claxton, bodes well for the future.
Weaknesses: The Flying Dutchmen lack a proven scorer, played awful defense last season and were beaten regularly on the backboards. The new guys will help, but coach Jay Wright needs time to establish continuity.
Outlook: Hofstra should be bette, but there still is plenty of work to be done. Burton is a keeper, but Claxton should be even better in a year or two. The newcomers represent an increased level of talent, but contention will have to wait.
Last league title: 1992 (East Coast).
Last time made NCAA field: 1977.
Site: Hempstead, N.Y. **Home court:** Physical Fitness Center (3,500).

7. TOWSON STATE

Coach: Terry Truax (193-184, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-12. NAC: 11-7/T3rd.
Starters lost (4): Scooter Alexander, G (11.9 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.3 spg, 28.9 mpg); Ralph Blalock, F (17.1 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 49.1 FG%, 36.9 3-pt%, 31.4 mpg); Matt Dellinger, C (6.0 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 6.0 mpg); Stevie Thomas, F (9.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 46.4 FG%, 77.8 FT%, 37.1 3-pt%, 29.4 mpg).
Others lost: Quintin Moody, G (10.0 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Michael Keyes, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.9 spg, 49.0 FG%, 76.6 FT%, 36.1 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Josh Anderson, F/C, 6-9/Sr.; Ralph Biggs, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 46.2 FG%, 77.8 FT%, 15.9 mpg); Derrick Earl, F/C, 6-6/Jr. (4.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 70.5 FT%, 13.0 mpg); Peter Kenah, G, 5-11/Jr.; Ryan Lexer, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (5.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 13.9 mpg); DeRon Robinson, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 82.1 FT%, 7.6 mpg); Florian Schneider, F, 6-6/Sr.
Top newcomers: Damon Cason, G, 6-0/Fr. (RS/shoulder); Raul de Pablo, G, 6-3/Fr.; Omari Grey, G, 6-3/Fr.; Ernest Hairston, F, 6-7/Fr.; DaVonn Harp, C/F, 6-7/Soph. (JC); Derick Newton, F, 6-6/Jr. (transfer/La Salle); Marlin Wise, G, 6-1/Fr.
Strengths: The Tigers should get strong point guard play from freshman Marlin Wise. La Salle transfer Derick Newton was a productive forward for the Explorers, and Michael Keyes is a fairly accurate outside shooter.
Weaknesses: Only one returnee—Keyes—averaged more than 16 minutes per game last season, so coach Terry Truax had better hope his seven newcomers can play immediately. The Tigers also could stand to tighten their defense, which allowed rivals to make 45 percent of their shots a year ago.
Outlook: Thanks to its ability to recruit the fertile Baltimore/D.C. corridor, Towson always will have talent. This season, it's a matter of piecing together a rotation from Keyes, the new faces and several holdovers. But don't count on things coming together quickly enough to get the Tigers into the first division.
Last league title: 1994 (Big South).
Last time made NCAA field: 1991.
Site: Towson, Md. **Home court:** Towson Center (5,000).

SCOUTING AMERICA EAST

Ascending: Delaware. Mike Brey is one of the rising young coaching stars, and he already has attracted a pair of strong recruiting classes.
Descending: Maine. Even though John Giannini brings excellent credentials with him from Division III powerhouse Rowan, the Black Bears have fallen a long way from the 1993-94 conference tournament title game and are due to slide more.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Drexel center Malik Rose's. Rose was one of the best rebounders in NCAA history and twice was the conference player of the year. Senior Chuck Guittar is in line to replace some of Rose's rebounding, but he won't approach Rose's offensive contributions.
Most underrated player: Hofstra point guard Darius Burton. He led the conference in steals and assists last season and scored in double figures, but he didn't appear on either of the league's two all-star units.
Most overrated player: Boston U. center Joey Beard. If Beard had decided to become a Terrier right out of high school, instead of spending an unfulfilling year at Duke, maybe we wouldn't expect so much from him. But he didn't, so we do.
Best recruiting class: Delaware. The true fruits of the Blue Hens' crop of newcomers won't be completely felt until next season, when Virginia transfer Darryl Presley becomes eligible, but the Blue Hens should get plenty of help in '96-97. Freshman guards Kestutis Marciulionis and Greg Miller fill immediate needs.
Coach on the hot seat: Vermont's Tom Brennan. You won't find a funnier or friendlier guy, but he couldn't win consistently with a big-time scorer like Eddie Benton. It's frightening to think what might happen to the Catamounts now that Benton is gone.
Odds and ends: In the past four years, Towson State has played in four "different" leagues. They went from the Big South to the East Coast Conference to the North Atlantic Conference, which has now changed its name to America East. Imagine the letterhead expenses. ... Drexel coach Bill Herrion signed a contract extension during the offseason, but that won't stem the tide of rumors about him moving to a bigger program, particularly if the Dragons make it to the NCAA Tournament again. ◆

—MICHAEL BRADLEY

8. NEW HAMPSHIRE

Coach: Jeff Jackson (1st year).
1995-96 record: 6-21. NAC: 5-13/T7th.
Starters lost (3): Matt Alosa, G (24.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.1 spg, 83.3 FT%, 37.8 mpg); Ed Eusebio, F (4.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 19.1 mpg); Doug Wilson, G (9.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.9 spg, 75.3 FT%, 35.5 3-pt%, 30.1 mpg).
Others lost: Erik Freeman, C (3.7 rpg, 12.3 mpg); Spencer Kupferman, G; Matt Smith, G.
Starters returning (2): Matt Acres, F, 6-7/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 36.9 mpg); Brad Cirino, F, 6-5/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 46.2 FG%, 41.5 3-pt%, 22.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Chris Hibbs, F, 6-9/Jr. (52.6 FG%, 13.3 mpg); Ryan Gatchell, G, Sr. (10.5 mpg); Jamahl Jackson, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (13.0 mpg); Ryan Matteson, C, 6-10/Soph.; Joe Provost, F, 6-5/Jr. (13.7 mpg); Ken Rassi, C, 6-11/Jr. (12.6 mpg).
Top newcomers: Carlos Bradberry, G, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Niagara); Steve Beckett, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jason Hernandez, G, 6-0/Fr.
Strengths: Matt Acres is a solid scorer and rebounder, and Brad Cirino is one of the league's better outside shooters. Look out for Niagara transfer Carlos Bradberry, who led the Purple Eagles in assists in 1994-95.
Weaknesses: The loss of backcourt gunner Matt Alosa means there is no go-to guy, and Acres isn't enough to win the rebounding battle. If freshman Steve Beckett doesn't produce, New Hampshire will get bludgeoned inside.
Outlook: Jeff Jackson, the school's fourth coach in eight years, inherits a team that should have trouble scoring points and almost is certain to surrender too many. He may have lofty goals for the program, but so did his predecessors, and they couldn't deliver.
Last league title: 1983 (tie).
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Durham, N.H. **Home court:** Whittemore Center (7,000).

9. MAINE

Coach: John Giannini (1st year; 168-38 overall, 8 years).
1995-96 record: 15-13. NAC: 11-7/T3rd.
Starters lost (3): Casey Arena, G (12.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 6.1 apg, 1.8 spg, 32.9 mpg); Greg Logan, F (9.0 ppg, 10.7 rpg, 50.7 FG%, 31.2 mpg); Matt Moore, G (10.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 35.0 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg).
Others lost: Chris Collins, F (2.1 rpg, 13.7 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Ramone Jones, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 1.5 apg, 29.7 mpg); Allen Ledbetter, F, 6-6/Soph. (8.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 46.2 FG%, 27.7 mpg).
Other returnees: John Gordon, G, 5-10/Soph. (13.2 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 1.3 spg, 75.8 FT%, 41.9 3-pt%, 26.0 mpg); Kip Keeling, G, 5-10/Sr.; Don Long, C, 6-8/Sr. (7.2 mpg); Angelo Thomas, F, 6-9/Soph.; Rahsaan Thompson, F, 6-5/Jr.
Top newcomers: Fitzgerald "Dade" Faison, G, 5-11/Fr.; Terry Hunt, F, 6-5/Sr. (RS/broken leg); Corey Thibodeau, G, 6-1/Fr.
Strengths: Not many. Allen Ledbetter proved himself a reliable rebounder last season.
Weaknesses: The Black Bears need some shooters. Last season, the team shot a wretched 41.8 percent from the field and a miserable 58.3 percent from the line. Maybe freshman Corey Thibodeau can help. The Bears lost four of their top five scorers from last season, then watched their coach, Rudy Keeling, switch to Northeastern.
Outlook: New coach John Giannini arrives from Division III power Rowan College to find a mess. The returnees are weak, and the recruiting class is a hodgepodge of redshirts and newcomers.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Orono, Maine. **Home court:** Alfond Arena (6,000).

10. VERMONT

Coach: Tom Brennan (106-171, 10 years; 152-229 overall, 14 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. NAC: 10-8/6th.
Starters lost (2): Eddie Benton, G (**24.5 ppg**, 3.3 rpg, 5.4 apg, 1.0 spg, 84.3 FT%, 36.7 mpg); Bernie Cieplicki, G (15.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 89.5 FT%, 39.6 3-pt%, 31.9 mpg).
Others lost: David Conlon, F (14.1 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Matt Chotkowski, F, 6-6/Soph. (2.5 rpg, 16.9 mpg); Erik Nelson, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.3 ppg, 7.3 rpg, **2.6 bpg**, 56.3 FG%, 27.0 mpg); Craig Peper, F, 6-8/Soph. (6.6 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 22.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Jonathan Bruce, F, 6-4/Sr.; Shoe deJong, F, 6-5/Soph.; Spencer Eisenmenger, G, 6-4/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 40.0 3-pt%, 18.1 mpg); Dwayne Grey, F, 6-6/Sr.; Craig Maurer, G, 6-4/Soph. (15.8 mpg); Martin Niederer, G, 6-2/Soph.; Jared Steele, F, 6-6/Soph. (4.8 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 16.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tobe Carberry, G, 6-2/Fr.; Tyler Murphy, G, 6-5/Fr.; David Roach, G, 5-11/Fr.
Strengths: Erik Nelson usually finishes when he gets the ball in the low post and could approach 10 rebounds per game. Craig Peper also has potential as a rebounder. Freshman David Roach brings strong scoring credentials with him.
Weaknesses: The loss of guards Eddie Benton and Bernie Cieplicki rip the heart out of the offense. Benton was good for almost 25 a night, and Cieplicki was an excellent long-range shooter. Vermont had better play good defense—not exactly a staple a year ago—or it will be a long season.
Outlook: Few coaches in the country are as gregarious as Tom Brennan, and he'll need every bit of his sense of humor to survive this season. Unless he finds another Benton from among three solid backcourt recruits, the Catamounts will be looking at a long climb back to respectability.
Last league title: 1947 (Yankee).
Last time made NCAA field: None.
Site: Burlington, Vt. **Home court:** Patrick Gym (3,200). ◆

Michael Bradley is a free-lance writer based in Philadelphia.

BIG SKY

Conference Rank: 19

By Michael Yawitz

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. MONTANA
2. IDAHO STATE
3. WEBER STATE
4. MONTANA STATE
5. NORTHERN ARIZONA
6. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE
7. CAL STATE SACRAMENTO*
8. EASTERN WASHINGTON
9. PORTLAND STATE†

*—applied for waiver, could be eligible for league tournament
†—ineligible for title

ALL-BIG SKY TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	J.R. CAMEL, Montana	6-2/180	Soph.
F	RYAN CUFF, Weber State	6-5/200	Sr.
C	NATE GREEN, Idaho State	6-8/250	Sr.
F/G	CHRIS SPOJA, Montana	6-5/220	Sr.
G	DANNY SPRINKLE, Montana St.	6-2/175	Soph.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
G	ALEX FISHER, Weber State	6-1/195	Jr.
F/C	NATE HOLMSTADT, Montana St.	6-8 255	Soph.
F	ROB PRESTON, Idaho State	6-8/215	Sr.
C	BRENT SMITH, Montana	6-10/220	Sr.
G	CHARLES THOMAS, N. Arizona	6-0/180	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

RYAN CUFF
F, Weber State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

DAMON OLLIE, F, Montana State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Ryan Cuff, Weber State.

Best rebounder: Nate Holmstadt, Montana State.

Best playmaker: Damond Edwards, Cal State Sacramento.

Best defender: J.R. Camel, Montana.

Best leaper: David Victor, Cal State Sacramento.

Best under 6 foot: Squirt Hicks, Weber State.

Best over 7 foot: Don Carter, Montana.

Most versatile: Chris Spoja, Montana.

Most flamboyant: J.R. Camel, Montana.

Best NBA prospect: Ryan Cuff, Weber State.

1. MONTANA

Coach: Blaine Taylor (104-41, 5 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-8. Big Sky: 10-4/T2nd.
Starters lost (3): Shane Belnap, G (10.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 6.6 apg, 2.3 spg, 72.1 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 30.3 mpg); Nate Covill, C (6.6 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 51.6 FG%, 19.6 mpg); Shawn Samuelson, F (16.0 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 53.7 FG%, 77.8 FT%, 35.1 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Eric Bowie, G, 6-2/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 19.2 mpg); Chris Spoja, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.3 spg, 45.3 FG%, 78.1 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 26.2 mpg).
Other returnees: J.R. Camel, G, 6-2/Soph. (RS); Brandon Dade, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 47.4 FG%, 71.1 FT%, 17.6 mpg); Ryan Dick, F, 6-7/Jr. (9.6 mpg); Kenyth Henry, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS); Mat Seidensticker, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (10.0 mpg); Brent Smith, C, 6-10/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 59.4 FG%, 21.4 mpg); Kirk Walker, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 3.3 apg, 46.9 FG%, 81.1 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 23.7 mpg).
Top newcomers: Don Carter, C, 7-1/Fr. (RS); Dominique Davis, 6-10/Fr. (RS); Jim Roban, F, 6-5/Fr.; Mike Warhank, G, 6-3/Fr. (RS).
Strengths: The Grizzlies have a strong inside-outside attack built around Brent Smith in the middle, flashy J.R. Camel in the backcourt and swingman Chris Spoja. Camel will juice up the tempo.
Weaknesses: Losing solid scorer/rebounder Shawn Samuelson and big man Nate Covill puts considerable pressure on Smith and Montana's inexperienced front-liners. Samuelson was a refuse-to-lose leader.
Outlook: The Grizzlies have a strong returning cast overall, plus five redshirts ready to step aboard for depth. Montana ran low on manpower at the end of last season, and the banged-up team missed a return trip to the NIT. This time, coach Blaine Taylor's club might be just as talented and possess more staying power.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Missoula, Mont. **Home court:** Dahlberg Arena (8,950).

2. IDAHO STATE

Coach: Herb Williams (77-91, 6 years).
1995-96 record: 11-15. Big Sky: 7-7/5th.
Starters lost (2): Carl Artis, G (20.9 mpg; left school); Donovan Brown, F (8.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 55.6 FG%, 26.5 mpg; left school).
Others lost: Patrick Lee, F/G (6.8 ppg, 80.0 FT%, 39.5 3-pt%, 17.5 mpg); Tom Maxwell, C.
Starters returning (3): Nate Green, C, 6-8/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.6 spg, 1.5 bpg, 46.1 FG%, 30.2 mpg); Ron Harwell, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.1 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.2 spg, 72.4 FT%, 29.3 mpg); Rob Preston, F, 6-8/Sr. (12.4 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 53.6 FG%, 31.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Mack Tarver, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (5.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 17.5 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dedric Bell, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Stephen Brown, G, 6-1/Fr.; David Culbreath, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Rapheal Fondren, G, 6-2/Soph. (JC); Tracy Hammond, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (transfer/Stephen F. Austin; eligible second semester); David Hickman, F, 6-6/Sr. (transfer/Iowa State); Jerry Lei, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Cedric Robinson, F, 6-6/Fr.; Justin Sant, G, 6-4/Fr.; Chadd Sukut, G, 6-1/Fr.
Strengths: As a group, the forward wall could be the league's best—but the Bengals might be thin elsewhere. Nate Green can be dominant when he's motivated; as the centerpiece of this squad, he just might elevate his game. Rob Preston's bump-and-grind style adds grit.
Weaknesses: A breakdown in the backcourt last season made Idaho State a mediocre and erratic team. As a result, coach Herb Williams went on a guard-signing binge.
Outlook: If one of the six guards brought into the program can hold the reins tight—and Green shows up every night—Idaho State could challenge for the Big Sky crown.The Bengals will need to avoid a repeat of last season's off-court problems.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Pocatello, Idaho. **Home court:** Holt Arena (8,721).

3. WEBER STATE

Coach: Ron Abegglen (97-50, 5 years; 206-95 overall, 10 years; 1-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-10. Big Sky: 10-4/T2nd.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

Starters lost (4): Jimmy DeGraffenried, F (21.2 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 57.2 FG%, 86.2 FT%, 47.0 3-pt%, 35.0 mpg); Bryan Emery, G (6.0 ppg, 3.2 apg, 77.4 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 24.0 mpg); Andy Smith, C (11.3 ppg, 7.2 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.2 bpg, 59.8 FG%, 81.3 FT%, 26.2 mpg); Justyn Tebbs, F (15.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.2 spg, 49.9 FG%, 75.9 FT%, 50.0 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg).
Others lost: Bart McIntire, F (transfer/Eastern New Mexico); Justin Nielsen, F.
Starters returning (1): Ryan Cuff, F, 6-5/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1.9 spg, 46.8 FG%, 78.3 FT%, 44.0 3-pt%, 29.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Damien Baskerville, G, 6-3/Soph. (4.3 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 76.1 FT%, 13.9 mpg); Alex Fisher, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.2 ppg, 38.0 3-pt%, 17.5 mpg); Joey Haws, C, 6-9/Soph.; Squirt Hicks, G, 5-5/Soph. (13.1 mpg); Eric Ketcham, F/C, 6-9/Soph.
Top newcomers: Ryan Jama, F, 6-5/Fr.; Cameron Koford, C, 7-0/Fr.; Nathan Miller, F/G, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Jimmy Smith, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Matt Sparrow, F, 6-5/Fr.; Patrick Wrigg, C, 6-9/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Ryan Cuff is Weber State's latest entry in its long line of league MVP and scoring-leader candidates. Increased power inside with 240-pound Joey Haws and 270-pound Patrick Wrigg will move the Wildcats' game from the perimeter to the inside.
Weaknesses: Youth and inexperience mark the Wildcats' roster. Squirt Hicks or JC transfer Jimmy Smith will have to tie the loose ends together at point guard.
Outlook: A tough preseason schedule will push the Wildcats into shape for the league race. One major negative: The cloud of an NCAA probe is hanging over the program.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Ogden, Utah. **Home court:** Dee Events Center (12,000).

4. MONTANA STATE

Coach: Mick Durham (93-75 record, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-9. Big Sky: 11-3/1st. Lost to Syracuse in NCAA West first round.
Starters lost (4): Nico Harrison, F (13.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 60.1 FG%, 73.2 FT%, 31.7 mpg); Scott Hatler, G (7.3 ppg, 5.9 apg, 1.0 spg, 83.3 FT%, 38.9 3-pt%, 29.9 mpg); Adam Leachman, F (10.3 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 2.8 apg, 30.0 mpg); Quadre Lollis, C (11.3 ppg, 11.3 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 67.5 FG%, 30.0 mpg).
Others lost: Mike Elliott, G (6.9 ppg, 2.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 49.3 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 35.4 3-pt%, 17.0 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Danny Sprinkle, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.8 ppg, 48.2 FG%, 43.7 3-pt%, 21.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Lance Fay, G, 6-1/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 1.0 spg, 15.2 mpg); Scott Harry, F, 6-4/Jr.; Mike Henry, F, 6-5/Soph.; Nate Holmstadt, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (7.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 17.6 mpg); Dan Sullivan, F, 6-5/Jr. (40.4 3-pt%, 10.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Mike Badding, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Mel Claxton, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); John Lazosky, F, 6-7/Fr.; Austin McKellar, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Damon Ollie, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Dante Rabb, F/G, 6-3/Soph. (JC); Kiritan Williams, G, 5-10/Soph.
Strengths: As true freshmen, Danny Sprinkle and Nate Holmstadt were surprisingly effective. When on target, Sprinkle is as deadly a shooter as there is. As a regular, Holmstadt should increase his rebounding and scoring numbers. Adding muscle is highly touted JC transfer Damon Ollie at power forward.
Weaknesses: Losing five seniors from a team that was built with an eye on last year's title drops Montana State into a rebuilding mode. Only Sprinkle and Sullivan have more than one season of experience as Bobcats.
Outlook: With a new point guard running a team that will have four new starters, chemistry is the key. Making the work easier is a schedule that includes three new league members and virtually assures a top-half Big Sky finish.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Bozeman, Mont. **Home court:** Worthington Arena (7,898).

5. NORTHERN ARIZONA

Coach: Ben Howland (14-38, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 6-20. Big Sky: 3-11/7th.
Starters lost (2): Brent Bowden, F (9.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 53.1 FG%, 26.2 mpg); Jerome Riley, G (9.6 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.6 apg, 1.2 spg, 76.6 FT%, 33.2 mpg; left school).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): Michael McNair, G, 6-2/Soph. (7.7

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.1 spg, 22.3 mpg); Scott Taylor, F, 6-8/Sr. (11.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.0 spg, 28.2 mpg); Charles Thomas, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.3 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 3.8 apg, 2.8 spg, 45.6 FG%, 34.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Abbott, G, 6-3/Jr. (12.6 mpg); Casey Frank, F, 6-9/Soph. (7.4 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 56.3 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 21.8 mpg).
Top newcomers: Stasha Dudukovich, F, 6-6/Fr.; Billy Hix, 6-7/Fr.; Rod Hutchings, G, 5-7/Fr.; Ross Land, G, 6-4/Fr.; Andrew Mavis, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Dan McClintock, C, 7-0/Fr. (RS); Andrew Wolthers, F, 6-8/Fr.
Strengths: Coach Ben Howland has been busy cleaning house to get his type of player into the program, which should strengthen the team's defense. For this season, he is placing much of his hopes on Charles Thomas and Scott Taylor, who are tired of losing.
Weaknesses: A lack of success over the years has kept the Lumberjacks from building the toughness it takes to win the close ones or succeed on the road. Northern Arizona has to break through in those categories to get the program headed in the right direction.
Outlook: Here is a team that should take advantage of the league's expansion and snag a low seed for the postseason tournament. The 'Jacks could possibly build momentum to lift the program from the doldrums.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Flagstaff, Ariz. **Home court:** J. Lawrence Walkup Skydome (7,000).

6. CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

Coach: Bobby Braswell (1st year).
1995-96 record: 7-20. America West: 2-4/T3rd.
Starters lost (3): Eric Gray, F (10.9 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 77.6 FT%, 25.6 mpg); Ruben Gronoz, F (10.0 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 1.0 spg, 25.1 mpg); Robert Hill, G (4.3 ppg, 1.5 apg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (2): Trenton Cross, G, 5-11/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 3.7 apg, 1.6 spg, 30 mpg); Tom Samson, F, 6-7/Sr. (6.8 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 56.2 FG%, 22 mpg).
Other returnees: Derrick Higgins, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (RS/foot); Damion Morbley, F, 6-6/Sr. (15.4 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 48.4 FG%, 70.1 FT%, 23 mpg); Gerald Rhoden, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 15 mpg); Kevin Taylor, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (RS/knee); Josh Willis, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (5.7 ppg, 75.8 FT%, 15 mpg).
Top newcomers: ShaRon Elzy, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Keith Higgins, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (transfer/Colorado); Brady Mertes, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Jeffery Parris, F, 6-6/Fr.
Strengths: The addition of a new coach and the excitement over joining a legitimate Division I conference have given the Matadors the chance to recruit better talent. Also, the infusion of transfers provides more athletic ability.
Weaknesses: Defense and rebounding were major deficiencies last season and JC transfer Brady Mertes, a 250-pounder, offers the only bulk in the middle. The night-in, night-out pounding from a Division I schedule will take its toll on a squad that will try to blend a roster of holdovers, redshirt returnees and transfers.
Outlook: The Matadors have yet to experience a winning season after moving up to Division I six years ago. They'll add to that streak this season but could be in the hunt for the final berth in the league tournament.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Northridge, Calif. **Home court:** The Matadome (3,000).

7. CAL STATE SACRAMENTO

Coach: Don Newman (17-91, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 7-20. America West: 2-4/T3rd.
Starters lost (2): Abie Ramirez, F (13.7 ppg, 45 FG%, 1.4 apg, 1.4 bpg, 1.2 spg, 7.6 rpg, 33.4 mpg); Markel Sadler G (6.2 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 4.7 apg, 1.4 spg, 33.9 mpg, left school).
Others lost: Erick Halverson, G.
Starters returning (3): Michael Boyd, G-F, 6-5/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.9 apg, 1.8 spg, 29 mpg); Eric Carey, G, 6-4/Soph. (8.7 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.9 apg, 31 mpg); David Victor, F, 6-9/Sr. (12.0 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 1.4 spg, 23.7 mpg).
Others returnees: Marcellus Bass, F, 6-6/Sr.; Damond Edwards, G, 6-3/Sr. (RS/academics); Tad Hoogenbosch, C, 6-11/Sr. (4.1 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 14.3 mpg); Mike Jenkins, G, 6-3/Sr (2.3 ppg, 14.7 mpg); Tim Pompey, G, 6-5/Sr. (3.7 ppg); Arthur Tate, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 20.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: David Drakeford, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Sidney Faison, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Jason Pickett, G, 6-1/Soph. (Prop 48); Paul Waford, C, 7-1/Fr.; Leon Watson, C, 6-10/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: The Hornets have some size up front with David Victor, Leon Watson and Tad Hoogenbosch, who figure to make rebounding and the interior defense strong. JC help adds depth for competiton against an upgraded schedule.
Weaknesses: Damond Edwards will be back in the lineup after a redshirt season, but he'll be at the point instead of his natural off-guard spot. The Hornets are a weak-shooting team, although David Drakeford's presence could be a boost.
Outlook: If the program receives a waiver to compete for a berth in the Big Sky Tournament, it will get a carrot to chase. But the Hornets still might not snag it without finding some firepower. (Northridge has played a Division I schedule longer than Sacramento and thus is immediately eligible for the tourney.)
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Sacramento, Calif. **Home court:** Memorial Auditorium (4,500).

SCOUTING THE BIG SKY

Ascending: Idaho State. After a troubling 1995-96 season that was racked with player suspensions, the Bengals have straightened out matters and are primed for title contention.
Descending: Weber State. With the results of an NCAA investigation (and thus possible sanctions) looming over the program, the Wildcats might be a no-show for the league tournament.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Montana State forward/center Quadre Lollis'. The undersized inside player was the league's co-MVP last season. As Lollis embarks on a career in Turkey, backup Nate Holmstadt, only a sophomore, will supplant him.
Most underrated player: Idaho State guard Ron Harwell. Every squad needs someone who lays it on the line and makes everyone better. Harwell is such a player.
Most overrated player: Idaho State center Nate Green. When he shows up, the Bengals go. Idaho State needs to get some consistency from Green or its title hopes will vanish.
Best recruiting class: Eastern Washington's. Steve Aggers took over after the signing date for the 1995-96 season, but he was able to lure a McDonald's All-American nominee (two, actually, but one didn't qualify academically) and some major-college transfers in his first recruiting class.
Coach on the hot seat: Cal State Sacramento's Don Newman. He has just 17 victories in four seasons but received a one-year extension. With a new athletic director coming aboard, Newman's job might be in jeopardy.
Odds and ends: This will be the first season of the "new look" Big Sky. Longtime members Idaho and Boise State have moved to the Big West, and Cal State Sacramento, Cal State Northridge and Portland State have moved in. ... Two new league members will debut with rookie coaches. Bobby Braswell takes the reins at Northridge, his alma mater, and Ritchie McKay is charged with resurrecting the Portland State program, which hasn't had a men's team since 1980-81. ... Montana State coach Mick Durham is poised to break the career 100-win mark this season, joining Weber State's Ron Abegglen and Montana's Blaine Taylor in that club. ◆

—MICHAEL YAWITZ

8. EASTERN WASHINGTON

Coach: Steve Aggers (3-23, 1 years; 191-163 overall, 12 years).
1995-96 record: 3-23. Big Sky: 0-14/8th.
Starters lost (4): Adam Dean, F (10.5 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 59.9 FG%, 82.6 FT%, 22.6 mpg); Kevin Groves, F (2.8 rpg, 19.0 mpg; quit team); Curtis Porter, G/F (9.0 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 76.8 FT%, 24.3 mpg); D'mitri Rideout, G (11.4 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 1.4 spg, 79.6 FT%, 28.9 mpg).
Others lost: Bryant Carter, G (15.3 mpg, quit team); Melvin Lewis, C/F (16.5 mpg); Brett Thompson, G.
Starters returning (1): Travis King, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 39.3 3-pt%, 27.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Luke Egan, F, 6-6/Sr. (6.8 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 97.7 FT%, 17.0 mpg); Mike Sims, F, 6-8/Soph. (6.4 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 46.4 FG%, 23.1 mpg).
Top newcomers: John Berger, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Zac Claus, G/F, 6-2/Jr. (transfer/Nebraska); Trevor Garcille, C/F, 6-10/Jr. (JC); Kevin Lewis, C/F, 6-10/Jr. (transfer/Kansas State); Michael Lewis, G, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Rodrick McClure, G, 5-10/Jr. (JC); Stephen Moss-Kelly, F, 6-6/Fr.; Karim Scott, F, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Eddie Turner III, 6-8/Fr.; Deon Williams, G, 6-3/Fr.
Strengths: The Eagles are prime examples of addition by subtraction. Top returnees will be relegated to the bench as major-college transfers Zac Claus and Kevin Lewis and touted freshman Deon Williams step up to give the Eagles their most talent in years. Much to the team's disappointment, another prep phenom, Jeremy Killion, didn't qualify.
Weaknesses: The Eagles seem to be missing the type of guard who can get the mix of incoming personnel (10 new players) and holdovers in sync.
Outlook: Hired after the signing date for the 1995-96 season, coach Steve Aggers now has a roster that is heavily of his own making. Players with big-time college experience will need to sparkle after gathering rust in redshirt seasons and they also must blend with five JC transfers. If things come together, the Eagles could be Big Sky sleepers.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cheney, Wash. **Home court:** Reese Court (5,000).

9. PORTLAND STATE

Coach: Ritchie McKay (1st year).
1995-96 record: First team since 1980-81 when the school dropped basketball.
Starters lost: None.
Others lost: None.
Starters returning: None.
Other returnees: None.
Top newcomers: Matt Ambrose, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Hasan Artharee, F, 6-5/Fr.; Ivan Garner, G, 6-2/Fr.; Tremaine Mayeaux, G, 6-5/Fr.; Derek Nesland, F, 6-6/Fr.; Zac Olson, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Jamaal Sanford, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Jamie Snook, G, 5-11/Soph. (JC); Brian Towne, G, 6-3/Soph. (transfer/Washington); Mike Vanderhoff, G, 6-0/Fr.; Adam Vandervort, F, 6-6/Soph. (JC).
Strengths: Resuming a program after a 15-year hiatus, the Vikings will stress youthful enthusiasm.
Weaknesses: Only Brian Towne brings Division I experience (Washington of the Pac-10) to the program. Eleven new players will try to figure one another out, let alone the opposition. Only one player stands taller than 6-6.
Outlook: Starting from scratch, the Vikings will scratch for wins. Because of its market size and big-time arena (the Rose Garden, where the Vikings will play most of their home games), Portland State no doubt will be a Big Sky force somewhere down the road. For now, though, the Vikes aren't even eligible for the league title.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Portland, Ore. **Home court:** Rose Garden (21,401). ◆

Michael Yawitz is a writer/editor for the Bozeman (Mont.) Daily Chronicle.

OHIO VALLEY

Conference Rank: 20

By Lance McKerley

PREDICTIONS

ORDER OF FINISH

1. AUSTIN PEAY
2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE
3. TENNESSEE STATE
4. MURRAY STATE
5. TENNESSEE TECH
6. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
7. EASTERN KENTUCKY
8. EASTERN ILLINOIS
9. UT-MARTIN
10. MOREHEAD STATE

ALL-OHIO VALLEY TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
F/G	NOD CARTER, Middle Tennessee	6-6/195	Sr.
C	BUD ELEY, Southeast Missouri	6-10/240	Jr.
G/F	VINCENT RAINEY, Murray State	6-4/205	Sr.
F	BUBBA WELLS, Austin Peay	6-5/225	Sr.
G	MONTY WILSON, Tennessee State	6-5/200	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Ht./Wt.	Class
C	LORENZO COLEMAN, Tennessee Tech	7-1/295	Sr.
C	JASON JOHNSON, Tennessee State	6-8/230	Soph.
G	JOE SIBBITT, Austin Peay	5-11/165	Jr.
F	AYLTON TESCH, Middle Tennessee	6-8/220	Sr.
G	DOUG WYCISKALLA, Morehead St.	6-2/190	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

BUBBA WELLS
F, Austin Peay

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

KEVIN SAMUEL, G, Tennessee State

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Joe Sibbitt, Austin Peay.

Best rebounder: Bud Eley, SE Missouri.

Best playmaker: Colby Pierce, Austin Peay.

Best defender: Monty Wilson, Tennessee State.

Best leaper: Bubba Wells, Austin Peay.

Best under 6 foot: Albert Wilson, Tennessee Tech.

Best over 7 foot: Lorenzo Coleman, Tennessee Tech.

Most versatile: Nod Carter, Middle Tennessee State.

Most flamboyant: Bubba Wells, Austin Peay.

Best NBA prospect: Lorenzo Coleman, Tennessee Tech.

1. AUSTIN PEAY

Coach: Dave Loos (76-94, 6 years; 158-147 overall, 10 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-11. OVC: 10-6/3rd. Lost to Georgia Tech in NCAA Southeast first round.
Starters lost (1): Jermaine Savage, F (17.5 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 47.6 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 35.4 mpg).
Others lost: Cole Casbon, G (13.1 mpg); Jermaine Johnson, F (transfer); Eddie Perdue, C.
Starters returning (4): Reggie Crenshaw, F/C, 6-7/Jr. (9.3 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.4 spg, 1.5 bpg, 50.0 FG%, 38.5 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg); Colby Pierce, G, 6-2/Sr. (5.8 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 6.8 apg, 2.0 spg, 29.6 mpg); Joe Sibbitt, G, 5-11/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 2.1 apg, 84.0 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 28.2 mpg); Bubba Wells, F, 6-5/Sr. (**26.3 ppg**, 7.3 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.6 spg, 1.5 bpg, 54.9 FG%, 75.7 FT%, 43.6 3-pt%, 36.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Jake Powers, F, 6-7/Jr.; Adrian Sensabaugh, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.5 mpg); Mike Witherspoon, F, 6-5/Jr. (2.6 rpg, 55.6 FG%, 12.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Josh Hallatt, C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Indiana State); Michael Head, F, 6-8/Fr. (RS); Willie Ivory, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Willie Jones, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Joey Tuck, G, 6-2/Fr.
Strengths: Bubba Wells always has been fun to watch. But last year the shots began falling and he became a national scoring leader. This season, with a veteran backcourt and at least one capable post player in Reggie Crenshaw, Wells and the Governors are a solid choice to return to the NCAAs.
Weaknesses: Coach Dave Loos' team has depth, but little proven talent under the basket. As a result, Wells again will be forced to focus much of his energy on rebounding and low-post defense. Newcomer Willie Ivory must replace tenacious defender Jermaine Savage.
Outlook: The Governors' experienced nucleus of returnees is tops in the league. Wells, with no offseason injury to recover from this time around, should contend for All-American honors. But the key to a championship may be Colby Pierce, the OVC's top point guard.
Last league title: 1977.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Clarksville, Tenn. **Home court:** Dunn Center (9,000).

2. MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Randy Wiel (1st year; 32-50 overall, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 15-12. OVC: 9-7/T4th
Starters lost (2): Tim Gaither, G (14.2 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.2 spg, 73.8 FT%, 36.8 3-pt%, 33.1 mpg); David Washington, C (8.0 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 24.0 mpg).
Others lost: Tyrone Barksdale, G (13.5 mpg; transfer); Paul Bruns, F (transfer/Morningside); Velvious Goodloe, F (7.2 mpg); Brent Secrest, C (7.2 mpg).
Starters returning (3): Roni Bailey, F, 6-5/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 48.0 FG%, 27.8 mpg); Nod Carter, G/F, 6-6/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 88.1 FT%, 39.0 3-pt%, 31.6 mpg); Ayton Tesch, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.5 spg, 58.3 FG%, 30.1 mpg).
Other returnees: Kent Ayer, G, 6-1/Soph.; K.J. Harden, G, 6-6/Jr. (10.3 mpg); Torrey Moore, F/G, 6-5/Sr.; Chad Wampler, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (13.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Malachi Allen, G, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Mantia Callender, C, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Richard Duncan, G, 6-1/Soph. (JC); Linnell Marshall, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Freddie Martinez, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Randy Wiel has the look of a lottery winner. The Blue Raiders' first-year coach inherited not only an experienced squad but one of the nation's finest collections of JC recruits. Freshman Freddie Martinez, a shooter from Puerto Rico, may be the best of the newcomers.
Weaknesses: Though one of the league's most talented clubs, Middle Tennessee looked unfocused and unmotivated at times last year. Wiel, a longtime North Carolina assistant who moves in from UNC Asheville, will address that problem by implementing an up-tempo style.
Outlook: If the newcomers live up to their billing, MTSU could run away with the league race. Still, new coaches and new players bring question marks, and one of the biggest will be Duncan's ability to replace floor leader Tim Gaither.
Last league title: 1989 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Murfreesboro, Tenn. **Home court:** Hale Arena (11,520).

3. TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Frankie Allen (74-69, 5 years; 130-130 overall, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-13. OVC: 11-5/2nd.
Starters lost (3): Stanley Caldwell, F (13.5 ppg, 10.4 rpg, 1.5 spg, 61.8 FG%, 32.4 mpg); Curtis Jenkins, G (9.4 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 4.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 82.4 FT%, 37.2 3-pt%, 25.3 mpg); Calvin Morris, F (11.4 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 31.0 mpg).
Others lost: Jon Alston, G (left team); Albert Bond, C; Anthony Cephus, G (left team).
Starters returning (2): Jason Johnson, C, 6-8/Soph. (10.9 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 48.3 FG%, 77.8 FT%, 28.3 mpg); Monty Wilson, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (19.6 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 77.4 FT%, 36.9 mpg).
Other returnees: Damon Page, G, 6-0/Sr. (2.8 rpg, 73.5 FT%, 20.3 mpg); Harold Spencer, G, 6-0/Soph.
Top newcomers: Michael Floyd, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Kareem Gilbert, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Seth Huber, G/F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Corrie Johnson, G, 6-0/Jr. (transfer/East Tennessee State); Terry Murray, F, 6-8/Fr.; Jeremiah Rice, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Keith Samuel, F, 6-6/Fr.; Kevin Samuel, G, 6-3/Fr.; Steve Walston, F, 6-9/Sr. (transfer/Arizona State); Lee Williamson, F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Though he's a streaky shooter, few in the OVC can challenge Monty Wilson as an all-around performer. Jason Johnson, the league's top freshman last season, is a smooth, steady force in the middle. There is a superb cast of newcomers.
Weaknesses: Inadequate point guard play doomed the Tigers last season, but that area could become a strength with the additions of highly recruited freshman Kevin Samuel and JC transfer Kareem Gilbert. Perimeter shooting, also a weakness, is the forte of JC recruit Seth Huber.
Outlook: Rebounding and defense have long been the mainstays at TSU, but this season the accent will be on speed. The Tigers could have trouble scoring in the paint, but they should remain a contender with a more wide-open, perimeter-oriented game.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Nashville, Tenn. **Home court:** Gentry Complex (10,500).

4. MURRAY STATE

Coach: Mark Gottfried (19-10, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 19-10. OVC: 12-4/1st. Lost to Missouri in NIT first round.
Starters lost (4): Greg Anderson, F (8.9 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 51.1 FG%, 20.5 mpg); Marcus Brown, G (26.4 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 4.1 apg, 2.2 spg, 47.4 FG%, 84.1 FT%, 42.3 3-pt%, 37.2 mpg); Dwayne Davis, C (3.9 rpg, 14.2 mpg); Fred Walker, F (6.5 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.5 spg, 53.7 FG%, 35.0 mpg).
Others lost: Stacey Barry, F (54.1 FG%, 9.1 mpg); Isaac Bullock, G/F (transfer); Quennon Echols, C (2.6 rpg, 1.9 bpg, 13.0 mpg); Jack Owens, G (11.5 mpg; transfer); Kenneth Taylor, G (17.9 mpg).
Starters returning (1): Vincent Rainey, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (19.4 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.0 spg, 47.1 FG%, 74.1 FT%, 36.9 3-pt%, 19.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Darren Dawson, G, 6-5/Soph. (6.7 ppg, 85.2 FT%, 22.3 mpg); Matt Harris, F, 6-7/Jr.
Top newcomers: Dennis Dahl, C, 6-11/Jr. (JC); Arneil Hamilton, F, 6-8/Jr. (JC); Deteri Mayes, G, 6-3/Jr. (JC); Aaron Page, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Chad Townsend, G, 6-1/Jr. (transfer/St. Edward's); Michael Turner, F, 6-8/Fr.
Strengths: In a year of substantial rebuilding, it's nice to have a guy like Vincent Rainey around. Probably the league's best all-around player and a likely NBA draftee, he finally has a chance to step out of Marcus Brown's shadow.
Weaknesses: Coach Mark Gottfried's strong recruiting class must produce from the beginning. Deteri Mayes, Aaron Page and Chad Townsend should provide a capable backcourt, while Dennis Dahl will be looked to for inside punch.
Outlook: Despite crippling graduation losses, no veteran OVC observer is willing to bet that Murray State will fall too far in '96-97. But tradition can carry the Racers only so far. The Racers showed a tendency last year to stand around and wait for Brown or Rainey to make a play, and this year that approach could spell disaster.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Murray, Ky. **Home court:** Cutchin Fieldhouse (5,550).

5. TENNESSEE TECH

Coach: Frank Harrell (104-120, 8 years; 123-159 overall, 12 years).
1995-96 record: 13-15. OVC: 7-9/T6th.
Starters lost (2): Greg Bibb, F (13.5 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 1.0 spg, 79.5 FT%, 36.1 3-pt%, 28.0 mpg); Carlos Floyd, G/F (11.4 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 3.4 apg, 50.0 FG%, 75.3 FT%, 28.0 mpg).
Others lost: Lance Parr, C/F (2.6 rpg, 8.0 mpg; transfer/UT Chattanooga).
Starters returning (3): Lorenzo Coleman, C, 7-1/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 3.4 bpg, 57.7 FG%, 22.0 mpg); Jason Embry, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 37.7 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg); Chris Turner, G, 6-4/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.8 apg, 28.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Black, G, 6-3/Sr. (14.0 mpg); Rudy Byron, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS/knee); Marc Glanton, G, 5-11/Sr. (1.1 spg, 37.2 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg); Art Quarterman, C/F, 6-8/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 47.6 FG%, 19.0 mpg); Curtis Wiggins, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 65.3 FG%, 13.0 mpg); Albert Wilson, G, 5-10/Jr. (13.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Erik Atkins, F, 6-8/Fr.; Ricky Cabrera, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Charles Haney, G, 6-3/Fr.; Stott Martin, F, 6-6/Fr.
Strengths: Coach Frank Harrell had so many troops at his disposal last year that he used a two-platoon strategy. Nearly all of that depth returns. The Golden Eagles boast a productive, imposing front line in Lorenzo Coleman, Curtis Wiggins and Art Quarterman and a first-rate shooting guard in Chris Turner.
Weaknesses: Harrell freely admits that the two-platoon system evolved out of a near total lack of team chemistry. Floor leadership could emerge this season from veteran point guard Marc Glanton, or possibly Wiggins, a vocal senior who replaces popular departed captain Greg Bibb.
Outlook: Coleman is known equally as well in Cookeville for his enormous potential and his legendary lulls. If he achieves star status, the Golden Eagles and their ample supporting cast could wind up on top.
Last league title: 1985.

Boldface denotes league-leading totals.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

Last NCAA appearance: 1963.
Site: Cookeville, Tenn. **Home court:** Eblen Center (10,152).

6. SE MISSOURI STATE

Coach: Ron Shumate (294-153, 15 years; 433-214 overall, 22 years).
1995-96 record: 8-19. OVC: 5-11/8th.
Starters lost (1): Jerome Days, F (13.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 1.0 spg, 53.1 FG%, 29.3 mpg).
Others lost: Leonard Hassell, G (5.2 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 21.7 mpg).
Starters returning (4): Chris Chambers, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 2.2 apg, 22.9 mpg); Reginald Crisp, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 49.4 FG%, 26.1 mpg); Bud Eley, C, 6-10/Jr. (17.2 ppg, 9.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 1.9 bpg, 51.0 FG%, 35.3 3-pt%, 28.6 mpg); Allen Hatchett, G, 5-10/Soph. (7.3 ppg, 3.3 apg, 1.3 spg, 73.5 FT%, 26.1 mpg).
Other returnees: John Economos, G, 6-3/Soph. (35.9 3-pt%, 14.3 mpg); Devron Kirksey, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 51.5 FG%, 23.1 mpg); Travis Smith, F, 6-7/Jr. (46.4 FG%, 10.4 mpg).
Top newcomers: Dante Bryant, G, 6-2/Soph. (transfer/Pitt); Shaun Cole, G, 6-0/Fr.; Lakeo Keller, G, 5-11/Jr. (JC); Richard Lyte, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); David Montgomery, F, 6-8/Soph. (transfer/Central Arkansas); Calvert White, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: A dominant rebounder with a deadly jump-hook, Bud Eley was the league's top center last year. But disciplinary problems cut down his playing time and productivity, and coach Ron Shumate's team found few other sources of offense.
Weaknesses: Opponents solved the Eley equation late last season, doubling up on the big guy and sending the Indians on a woeful losing streak. It won't be so easy this season if newcomers Shaun Cole, Lakeo Keller and Dante Bryant live up to their reputations for quickness and dead-eye shooting.
Outlook: Finally eligible for the postseason, the Indians' hopes depend on the combination of a reformed Eley and a juiced-up backcourt. But without some help for Eley under the basket, it's likely they will find it a bit too crowded at the top.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cape Girardeau, Mo. **Home court:** Show Me Center (7,000).

7. EASTERN KENTUCKY

Coach: Mike Calhoun (50-59, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 13-14. OVC: 7-9/T6th.
Starters lost (3): DeMarkus Doss, F (16.4 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 2.9 apg, 2.0 spg, 71.0 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 32.8 mpg); Curtis Fincher, C (15.6 ppg, 10.8 rpg, 1.1 spg, 60.4 FG%, 33.9 mpg); Jay T. Shirer, G (5.1 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 74.2 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 27.4 mpg).
Others lost: Todd Clark, F/C (7.9 mpg; transfer); Rodd Woods, F/G (8.7 mpg).
Starters returning (2): Carlos Bess, G, 6-3/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.8 spg, 31.1 mpg); Marty Thomas, F, 6-5/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 78.8 FT%, 36.7 3-pt%, 25.3 mpg).
Other returnees: Jared Carpenter, G/F, 6-6/Soph.; Aaron Cecil, F, 6-6/Jr. (4.8 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 48.8 FG%, 15.0 mpg); Chris Fitzgerald, G, 6-0/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 10.9 mpg); Travis Inskeep, G, 6-1/Soph. (10.5 mpg); Warren Stukes, F, 6-6/Soph. (RS/knee).
Top newcomers: Eric Addie, G, 6-0/Fr.; Julius Bell, G, 6-1/Fr. (RS); David Evans, F, 6-5/Fr.; Kevin Johnson, F/C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Matt Simons, C, 6-11/Jr. (transfer/Louisville); Daniel Sutton, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Big things are expected from Louisville transfer Matt Simons, who becomes eligible this season. Simons and returnees Carlos Bess and Marty Thomas give the Colonels a potent, if unproven, scoring trio.
Weaknesses: Aggressive, hard-nosed defense has been the hallmark of coach Mike Calhoun's teams, but this club will be much less imposing physically because of the losses of center Curtis Fincher and forward DeMarkus Doss. Foul-prone Aaron Cecil will offer some help for Simons down low, but Eastern needs a quick perimeter defender to cope with the league's many talented shooting guards.
Outlook: It's no fun to play the Colonels; sometimes they appear to win because of sheer will and hustle. But there will be little fun in Richmond this year unless someone steps up and scores some points.
Last league title: 1979.
Last NCAA appearance: 1979.
Site: Richmond, Ky. **Home court:** McBrayer Arena (6,500).

8. EASTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Rick Samuels (234-228, 16 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-15. Mid-Continent: 9-9/T6th.
Starters lost (3): Johnny Hernandez, G (11.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 5.0 apg, 2.0 spg, 33.6 mpg); Andre Rodriguez, F (16.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 36.6 3-pt%, 31.3 mpg); Michael Slaughter, F (8.2 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.4 spg, 45.0 FG%, 31.3 mpg).
Others lost: Carlton Debose, G (transfer); Larry Moore, G (4.0 ppg, 36.0 3-pt%, 9.6 mpg; transfer); Michael Odumuyiwa, F (48.0 FG%, 29.6 mpg); Dwight Woods, G (transfer).
Starters returning (2): Eric Frankford, C/F, 6-9/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 43.2 3-pt%, 22.3 mpg); Rick Kaye, G, 6-5/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.5 spg, 45.0 FG%, 31.8 mpg).
Other returnees: Idris Osei-Agyeman, F, 6-4/Soph. (7.9 mpg); Chad Peckinpaugh, G, 6-2/Soph. (4.9 ppg, 2.0 apg, 1.5 spg, 18.9 mpg); Michael Shaver, C, 6-10/Soph. (4.0 ppg, 14.3 mpg).

SCOUTING THE OHIO VALLEY

Ascending: Southeast Missouri State. The Indians, eligible for league tourney play for the first time since moving up from Division II, may have the talent to take advantage of their new status as a full-fledged OVC member.
Descending: Murray State. For the first time in years, the Racers can't make a legitimate claim for preseason favorite status. Still, a lot of other teams would love to be in their shoes, and history tells us they won't be down for long.
Biggest sneakers to fill: Murray State guard Marcus Brown's. The two-time league MVP was someone the Racers could count on for a clutch basket or a key steal. That job now falls to Vincent Rainey, who has put up excellent numbers for the past three seasons.
Most underrated player: Austin Peay guard Colby Pierce. In a league starved for good point guards, Pierce shines on both ends of the floor.
Most overrated player: Southeast Missouri State center Bud Eley. When Eley was good, he was very, very good, garnering league newcomer of the year honors. But when he was bad, he was riding the pine. Discipline problems that frightened away many recruiters kept his minutes down throughout the season.
Best recruiting class: Tennessee State. Many major programs wanted high-scoring guard Kevin Samuel, but Frankie Allen was the only coach willing to include Kevin's brother, Keith (a 6-6 forward), in his scholarship offer. JC transfer Seth Hube, will provide perimeter scoring punch. Forward/center Jeremiah Rice should be a valuable contributor as a freshman.
Coach on the hot seat: Morehead State's Dick Fick. Fick joked during last season's league tournament about his shaky status, but he won't have much to laugh about if the Eagles don't improve during the last year of his contract.
Odds and ends: Murray State's last-second loss to Austin Peay in the OVC tourney final ended a 10-year streak of consecutive trips to the NCAA Tournament for Mark Gottfried, the Racers' first-year coach. Each of the trips came either as a player (Alabama) or assistant (UCLA). ... Tennessee State's Monty Wilson is a first cousin of the Boston Celtics' Todd Day, a former star at Arkansas. ... Austin Peay's Bubba Wells was named the OVC's top male athlete (in any sport) for the 1995-96 school year despite losing out in the basketball MVP voting to Murray State's Marcus Brown. ◆

—LANCE McKERLEY

Top newcomers: Kurt Cuffle, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Benji Gibbs, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Keith Hibbler, F, 6-6/Fr. (RS); Marc Polite, F, 6-5/Fr.; Conya Robinson, F, 6-5/Jr. (JC); John Smith, F, 6-7/Fr.; Jason Sowers, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Few OVC coaches appear to know much about the Panthers, who move over this season from the Mid-Continent Conference. That might be coach Rick Samuels' best weapon, as Eastern's talent level doesn't figure to translate into the upper division of its new league. Rick Kaye is a good 3-point shooter, and Eric Frankford is a good shot blocker.
Weaknesses: The Panthers lost three of their four leading scorers to graduation. Kaye will get backcourt support from Chad Peckinpaugh and JC transfers Benji Gibbs and Jason Sowers. Frankford likely will move to forward, relinquishing post duties to Michael Shaver as the Panthers try to make the most of their talent.
Outlook: Problems at guard could make it a long season, but the Panthers will, as usual, be tough to beat at home.
Last league title: 1991 (Mid-Continent).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Charleston, Ill. **Home court:** Lantz Gym (6,000).

9. UT-MARTIN

Coach: Cal Luther (41-94, 5 years; 468-408 overall, 35 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 13-14. OVC: 9-7/T4th.
Starters lost (2): Michael Hart, F (22.8 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 56.4 FG%, 71.5 FT%, 37.0 mpg); DeWayne Powell, G (17.5 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.9 apg, 2.3 spg, 74.5 FT%, 36.3 3-pt%, 37.0 mpg).
Others lost: None.
Starters returning (3): B.J. Nelson, F/C, 6-5/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 50.3 FG%, 23.0 mpg); Ryan Owens, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.5 apg, 1.4 spg, 26.4 mpg); Demarko Wright, F/G, 6-5/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 72.5 FT%, 38.6 3-pt%, 32.0 mpg).
Other returnees: Ryan Burge, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (8.2 mpg); Art Castle, G, 6-3/Jr.; Roger Castle, G, 6-2/Jr.; Joe Crumby, F/C, 6-8/Soph. (58.0 FG%, 12.0 mpg); Robin Cude, G, 6-1/Jr.; Ryan DeMichael, C, 6-8/Soph.; Oswago Harper, G, 6-5/Jr. (RS/foot); William McFadden, G, 5-10/Sr. (2.8 apg, 1.1 spg, 15.3 mpg).
Top newcomers: Tony Lipps, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Johnny Owens, C, 6-5/Jr. (JC); Ke Vin Roberts, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Confidence will be the Skyhawks' biggest ally. Last season, for the first time since joining the OVC in 1992, coach Cal Luther fielded a team on equal footing, talent-wise, with the rest of the league. This team will be Luther's most experienced, with 11 returnees.
Weaknesses: Lost to graduation are Michael Hart and DeWayne "Pooh" Powell, who combined for more than 40 points per game and engineered the Skyhawks' rise from obscurity. Demarko Wright will be looked to for scoring, along with Oswago "Hamp" Harper, Ke Vin Roberts and Tony Lipps. There are only three players over 6-5.
Outlook: Hart's abilities helped make up for UT-Martin's small lineup last season. This season, that old bugaboo seems likely to return, as the rest of the league continues to grow larger and stronger.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Martin, Tenn. **Home court:** Skyhawk Arena (6,700).

10. MOREHEAD STATE

Coach: Dick Fick (56-82, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 7-20. OVC: 2-14/9th.
Starters lost (4): Mark Kinnaird, G (13.8 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.1 spg, 85.5 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg); Mark Majick, G (10.3 ppg, 3.0 apg, 80.3 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 27.5 mpg); Mike Scrogham, F (12.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 72.7 FT%, 30.1 mpg; transfer/Thomas College); Marlon Witherspoon, C (10.9 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 29.7 mpg).
Others lost: Ivan Colbert, G; Al Dixon, F; John Humphrey, C (76.3 FT%, 12.6 mpg; left school).
Starters returning (1): Doug Wyciskalla, G, 6-2/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 74.2 FT%, 36.2 3-pt%, 25.4 mpg).
Other returnees: Heston Beverly, G, 6-1/Jr.; Ted Docks, G, 5-8/Soph. (2.2 apg, 1.1 spg, 71.4 FT%, 15.6 mpg); Cole Indestad, C, 6-8/Sr.; Luke Lloyd, F/C, 6-9/Soph. (3.5 rpg, 13.1 mpg); Kyle Sherman, g, 6-3/Soph.; Mark Spurlock, G, 5-10/Soph.; Chris Stone, F, 6-7/Jr. (47.1 FG%, 8.0 mpg).
Top newcomers: Hezzie Boone, G, 6-0/Soph. (JC); Lee Coomler, F, 6-5/Fr.; Jeremy Prater, G/F, 6-6/Soph. (JC); Jeremy Webb, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Shooting specialist Doug Wyciskalla looks like a good bet to emerge as a star, but he's the only player remotely close to being a star on this team. Mike Scrogham's decision to transfer will hurt.
Weaknesses: Morehead fell flat last season when the perimeter gunners were unable to compensate for a complete breakdown of the inside game. Unfortunately, recruiting brought little new muscle, so coach Dick Fick will have to hope for the best with returnees Cole Indestad and Luke Lloyd.
Outlook: It's hard to believe the Eagles came within an eyelash of winning the league title just two years ago. Undersized and under-experienced, it's difficult to imagine them making much noise this season. But Fick's sideline antics will be fun to watch while Eagles fans wait 'til next year.
Last league title: 1984.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Morehead, Ky. **Home court:** Johnson Arena (6,500). ◆

Lance McKerley covers the OVC for the Nashville Banner.

SOUTHERN

Conference Rank: 21

By Abe Hardesty

ALL-SOUTHERN TEAM

Junior Braswell, G, 6-1/175, Sr., Appalachian State
Sidney Coles, G, 6-5/177, Sr., Marshall
Kareem Livingston, F, 6-7/220, Jr., Appalachian State
Johnny Taylor, F, 6-8/215, Sr., UT-Chattanooga
Chuck Vincent, C/F, 6-7/223, Jr., Furman

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Johnny Taylor, F, UT-Chattanooga.

Newcomer of the Year: Von Dale Morton, F, Marshall.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Keith Veney, Marshall.
Best rebounder: Chuck Vincent, Furman.
Best playmaker: Junior Braswell, Appalachian State.
Best defender: Sidney Coles, Marshall.
Best leaper: Andre Kerr, Furman.
Best under 6 foot: Wes Moore, UT-Chattanooga.
Best over 7 foot: Kirill Misyuchenko, The Citadel.
Most versatile: Johnny Taylor, UT-Chattanooga.
Most flamboyant: Jarvis Graham, Western Carolina.
Best NBA prospect: Johnny Taylor, UT-Chattanooga.

NORTHERN DIVISION

1. MARSHALL

Coach: Greg White (1st year; 119-154 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 17-11. Northern Division: 8-6/3rd.
Key players: John Brannen, F/C, 6-7/Sr. (14.4 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 70.9 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 29.0 mpg); John Brown, C, 6-8/Jr. (14.0 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 56.4 FG%, 23.7 mpg); Sidney Coles, G, 6-5/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 3.2 apg, 2.7 spg, 60.4 FG%, 79.5 FT%, 39.1 3-pt%, 39.1 mpg); Von Dale Morton, F, 6-6/Soph. (Prop 48); Keith Veney, G, 6-1/Sr. (19.6 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.1 spg, 75.4 FT%, 45.5 3-pt%, 28.1 mpg).
Strengths: Perimeter shooting, rebounding and experience. Keith Veney, the league's best 3-point shooter, is among six seniors and 10 returnees. The rebounding, led by John Brown, may get a lift from 6-10 JC transfer Vince Carafelli.
Weaknesses: The transfer of point guard Jason Williams leaves a void. Sidney Coles, a defensive stalwart, likely will be moved to the point, but the Herd's offense will suffer.
Outlook: The departures of Williams and coach Billy Donovan could stall what might have been significant improvement, but Marshall has enough weapons to move to the top of the division.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1987.
Site: Huntington, W.Va. **Home court:** Henderson Center (10,250).

2. APPALACHIAN STATE

Coach: Buzz Peterson (1st year).
1995-96 record: 8-20. Northern Division: 3-11/T4th.
Key players: Junior Braswell. G, 6-1/Sr. (12.7 ppg, 73.7 FT%, 4.4 rpg, 4.9 apg, 31.8 mpg); Clint Crosston, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 53.4 FG%, 3.5 rpg, 22.6 mpg); Tige Damer, G, 6-5/Jr. (12.1 ppg, 47.3 FG%, 45.6 3-pt%, 5.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 33 mpg); Kareem Livingston, F, 6-7/Jr. (15.6 ppg, 56.5 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 5.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 33.4 mpg).
Strengths: The Mountaineers have muscle and experience inside with Kareem Livingston, 7-0 Josh Grover and Clint Crosston. In the backcourt, Junior Braswell is a three-year starter who blossomed into a big scorer late last year.
Weaknesses: Braswell penetrates well, but the Mountaineers lack scoring punch and ballhandling ability from the wing. Traditionally, they are weak defensively. Last year, Appalachian State had the league's second-highest turnover total.
Outlook: If the Mountaineers can keep the ball in the hands of Braswell and Livingston, they can finish .500 in their first season under Buzz Peterson. That isn't likely, but the club should improve on its eight-victory total.
Last league title: 1981 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Boone, N.C. **Home court:** Varsity Gymnasium (8,000).

3. DAVIDSON

Coach: Bob McKillop (100-100, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 25-5. Northern Division: 14-0/1st. Lost to South Carolina in NIT first round.
Key players: Mark Donnelly, G, 6-5/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 75.0 FT%, 17.1 mpg); Ben Ebong, F, 6-8/Jr. (4.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 14.1 mpg); Narcisse Ewodo, F, 6-8/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 1.1 spg, 45.0 FG%, 72.0 FT%, 24.1 mpg); Ali Ton, G, 6-0/Soph. (2.4 apg, 1.1 spg, 12.5 mpg).
Strengths: Narcisse Ewodo, from Cameroon, is a quality rebounder despite packing only 185 pounds on a 6-8 frame.
Weaknesses: The departures of Brandon Williams and Quinn Harwood (a combined 32 ppg) have left a scoring void in the frontcourt. Guard Ray Minlend's decision to transfer also hurts.
Outlook: The loss of four starters drops the talent level and the expectations at Davidson, a school whose academic standards leave little room for JC help. Coach Bob McKillop's program isn't likely to plummet below .500, but the Wildcats won't be world beaters, either.
Last league title: 1996 (Northern Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Davidson, N.C. **Home court:** Belk Arena (5,700).

4. VIRGINIA MILITARY

Coach: Bart Bellairs (28-27, 2 years; 49-54 overall, 4 years).
1995-96 record:18-10. Northern Division: 10-4/2nd.
Key players: Brent Conley, F, 6-7/Soph. (15.8 ppg, 8.4 rpg, 1.2 apg, 1.6 spg, 45.3 FG%, 36.6 3-pt%, 28.4 mpg); Aaron Demory, G/F, 6-3/Fr.; Maurice Spencer, G, 6-1/Sr. (9.3 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 1.7 apg, 1.0 spg, 82.5 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 19.7 mpg); Bryan Taueg, G, 6-3/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 75.9 FT%, 15.1 mpg).
Strengths: Brent Conley emerged as one of the league's best players as a freshman; he finished among the conference's top 10 in scoring, rebounding, field-goal and free-throw shooting and steals. Maurice Spencer and Bryan Taueg are good perimeter shooters.
Weaknesses: With seniors and juniors in short supply, the Keydets will lack maturity. Quickness could be a problem in the frontcourt, and, as usual, VMI will be small.
Outlook: The loss of four seniors makes this a rebuilding period. A second consecutive winning season is unlikely.
Last league title: 1977 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1977.
Site: Lexington, Va. **Home court:** Cameron Hall (5,029).

5. EAST TENNESSEE STATE

Coach: Ed DeChellis (1st year).
1995-96 record: 7-20. Northern Division: 3-11/T4th.
Key players: Erskin Anavitarte, G, 6-1/Fr.; Kyle Keeton, G, 5-11/Soph. (7.3 ppg, 1.5 spg, 37.0 3-pt%, 16.1 mpg); Titus Shelton, F, 6-4/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.6 spg, 23.7 mpg); Lee Walker, G, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Former Penn State assistant Ed DeChellis brings in a new system and teaches it to a virtually new team. Titus Shelton should emerge as a double-figure scorer.
Weaknesses: The Buccaneers lack size, experience and proven scoring punch. Shelton and Keeton are the only players with significant game time.
Outlook: A once-proud program fell apart last season when a team lacking leadership seemingly lost motivation. The top four scorers are gone, leaving DeChellis with rebuilding jobs physically and psychologically.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Johnson City, Tenn. **Home court:** Memorial Center (12,000).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

1. UT-CHATTANOOGA

Coach: Mack McCarthy (219-111, 11 years; 0-4 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-12. Southern Division: 9-5/2nd.
Key players: John Oliver, F, 6-5/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 1.3 apg, 80.7 FT%, 38.5 3-pt%, 27.4 mpg); Johnny Taylor, F, 6-8/Sr. (18.2 ppg, 7.1 rpg, 51.0 FG%, 73.2 FT%, 38.2 3-pt%, 29.6 mpg); Willie Young, G, 6-2/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 2.3 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.0 spg, 78.1 FT%, 23.4 mpg).
Strengths: Even in a subpar 15-win season, the Moccasins were again the best defensive team in the league—and everyone is back. The Mocs also were the league's best rebounding club. There's scoring punch from the wings, where Johnny Taylor and John Oliver combined for 30.5 points per game.
Weaknesses: Willie Young and Wes Moore were erratic at point guard a year ago, and there was little offensive help for Taylor and Oliver.
Outlook: The prime-time players from 1995-96 are returning and that should carry UTC back to the top of the division.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Chattanooga, Tenn. **Home court:** UTC Arena (11,218).

2. FURMAN

Coach: Joe Cantafio (20-34, 2 years; 99-181 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 10-17. Southern Division: 6-8/3rd.
Key players: Andre Kerr, F, 6-6/Soph. (12.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 26.8 mpg); Jason Stewart, F, 6-5/Soph. (14.0 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 78.5 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 25.7 mpg); Chuck Vincent, C/F, 6-7/Jr. (15.0 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 54.6 FG%, 71.3 FT%, 30.6 mpg).
Strengths: Chuck Vincent and Andre Kerr provide solid rebounding and scoring in the frontcourt. Jason Stewart emerged as one of the league's best shooters as a semi-healthy freshman and should be even better at full strength.
Weaknesses: An all-freshman backcourt was forced to slow the pace last year, and the result was too few easy baskets. Furman lacks maturity—there is only one senior and one junior.
Outlook: After starting four freshmen last season, the maturing Paladins should enjoy their first winning season in four years. Freshman point guard Chris Simmons could help.
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1980.
Site: Greenville, S.C. **Home court:** Herman W. Lay Center (1,000).

3. WESTERN CAROLINA

Coach: Phil Hopkins (17-13, 1 year; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-13. Southern Division: 10-4/1st. Lost to Purdue in NCAA West first round.
Key players: Joel Fleming, G, 6-0/Jr. (7.9 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 4.8 apg, 1.3 spg, 77.9 FT%, 27.7 mpg); Jarvis Graham, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 53.3 FG%, 5.1 rpg); Joe Stafford, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.7 ppg, 47.4 FG%, 82.4 FT%, 52.7 3-pt%, 18.7 mpg); Kerry Wright, C, 6-9/Sr. (5.0 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 57.7 FG%, 21.6 mpg).
Strengths: Ten veterans of last year's Southern Conference Tournament championship team provide leadership. Joe Stafford is a gifted 3-point marksman, and the inside game is strong with Jarvis Graham and Kerry Wright.
Weaknesses: The departure of league MVP Anquell McCollum creates a void defensively and offensively and leaves scoring production suspect on the wing.
Outlook: The Catamounts can still be a quality team—if each link in the supporting cast holds together and coach Phil Hopkins meshes his personnel as well as he did last year.
Last league title: 1996 (Southern Division).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Cullowhee, N.C. **Home court:** Ramsey Center (7,826).

4. THE CITADEL

Coach: Pat Dennis (42-65, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 10-16. Southern Division: 5-9/4th.
Key players: Noy Castillo, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.0 apg, 81.9 FT%, 35.7 mpg); Jamie Jenkins, G, 6-0/Jr. (15.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 2.7 apg, 75.5 FT%, 30.6 mpg); Kirill Misyuchenko, C, 7-0/Jr. (7.6 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 57.8 FG%, 2.6 bpg, 18.3 mpg); Matt Newman, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (12.5 ppg, 7.1 rpg,, 49.6 29.0 mpg).
Strengths: Matt Newman and Kirill Misyuchenko give the Bulldogs a strong inside game, and Noy Castillo is a solid outside shooter. All five starters are back.
Weaknesss: Lack of overall quickness gives the Bulldogs low grades in turnover margin and rebounding.
Outlook: A wealth of experience and the development of the towering Misyuchenko make the first winning season in seven years a possibility for The Citadel.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** McAlister Field House (6,000).

5. GEORGIA SOUTHERN

Coach: Gregg Polinsky (3-23, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 3-23. Southern Division: 2-12/5th.
Key players: Fernando Daniel, G, 6-1./Soph. (11.8 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 40.6 3-pt%, 2.3 apg, 33.3 mpg); Duane Goebel, G, 6-4/Soph. (7.6 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.1 apg, 28.1 mpg); Ryan Parker, G, 5-10/Soph. (7.4 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 70.5 FT%, 3.3 apg, 1.3spg, 34.8 mpg).
Strengths: Four JC additions join five returning starters, giving the Eagles plenty of experienced hands.
Weaknesses: The Eagles, who averaged only 56.5 points per game last year, still lack proven weapons. The Eagles have a long climb ahead.
Outlook: Coach Gregg Polinsky's second year will be better, if only because he has some numbers to work with. But the Eagles will be hard-pressed to win 10 games.
Last league title: 1992 (TAAC).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Statesboro, Ga. **Home court:** Hanner Fieldhouse (4,300). ◆

Abe Hardesty covers the Southern Conference for the Greenville (S.C.) News.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

BIG SOUTH

Conference Rank: 22

By Marc Harper

ALL-BIG SOUTH TEAM

Peter Aluma, C, 6-10/240, Sr., Liberty
Maurice Ingram, C, 6-8/235, Sr., Coastal Carolina
Larry Jackson, G, 6-1/165, Jr., Liberty
Brett Larrick, G, 6-4/200, Sr., Charleston Southern
Josh Pittman, F/G, 6-5/180, Jr., UNC Asheville

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Peter Aluma, C, Liberty.

Newcomer of the Year: Joseph Pryor, G, UNC Greensboro.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Josh Pittman, UNC Asheville.
Best rebounder: Maurice Ingram, Coastal Carolina.
Best playmaker: Marcus White, Liberty.
Best defender: Peter Aluma, Liberty.
Best leaper: Rolando Hourruitiner, Charleston Southern.
Best under 6 foot: Errol McPherson, Charleston Southern.
Best over 7 foot: Remco Smits, UNC Asheville.
Most versatile: Brett Larrick, Charleston Southern.
Most flamboyant: Jeremy Davis, UNC Greensboro.
Best NBA prospect: Peter Aluma, Liberty.

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Aluma is the premier player in the league. Look for him to lead Liberty to an NCAA berth.

1. LIBERTY

Coach: Jeff Meyer (236-197, 14 years).
1995-96 record: 17-12. Big South: 9-5/T2nd.
Key players: Peter Aluma, C, 6-10/Sr. (18.9 ppg, 6.4 rpg 1.2 spg, 3.9 bpg, 54.6 FG%, 32.7 mpg); Adam Hopkins, F/C, 6-10/Soph.; Larry Jackson, G, 6-1/Jr. (13.3 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 3.2 apg, 77.9 FT%, 37.8 3-pt%, 31.7 mpg); Eric Sorensen, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 57.5 FG%, 24.9 mpg); Marcus White, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 3.7 apg, 1.6 spg, 29.8 mpg).
Strengths: Peter Aluma, a big man with surprising offensive range and excellent shot-blocking ability, is the league's best player. Larry Jackson and Marcus White form a quick, explosive backcourt.
Weaknesses: At times last season, such as when the Flames were routed at home by UNC Greensboro in the conference tourney final, Aluma's teammates virtually abandoned him on the inside. He may have to go it alone in the paint again unless someone steps in to help.
Outlook: Liberty is one of the few top teams returning most of its key players. Since those returnees include Aluma, Jackson and White, the Flames must be considered the team to beat.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lynchburg, Va. **Home court:** Vines Center (9,000).

2. RADFORD

Coach: Ron Bradley (86-57, 5 years; 182-108 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 14-13. Big South: 8-6/5th.
Key players: Eric Bowens, F, 6-6/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 56.2 FG%, 71.4 FT%, 23.4 mpg); Kevin Robinson, C, 6-8/Jr. (9.4 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 1.0 spg, 55.1 FG%, 25.3 mpg); Anthony Walker, G, 6-0/Sr. (14.1 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.0 apg, 2.0 spg, 81.6 FT%, 34.1 mpg); Marquiz Williamson, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 42.5 FG%, 70.0 FT%, 25.1 mpg).
Strengths: Anthony Walker has all-conference ability and Eric Bowens and Kevin Robinson are capable scorers and rebounders. Marquiz Williamson finished third on last year's team in minutes played (678).
Weaknesses: Walker shot less than 35 percent and Williamson less than 30 percent last season from 3-point range. They will make it easy to shut off Radford's inside game unless they improve.
Outlook: If Walker and Williamson improve their shooting, Radford may have the balance to edge Liberty at the top. If not, the Highlanders still have the talent to finish second.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Radford, Va. **Home court:** Dedmon Center (5,000).

3. UNC GREENSBORO

Coach: Randy Peele (20-10, 1 year).
1995-96: 20-10. Big South: 11-3/1st. Lost to Cincinnati in NCAA Southeast first round.
Key players: Tony Daughtry, F, 6-5/Sr. (4.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 13.8 mpg); Jeremy Davis, G, 6-4/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 22.6 mpg); Larry Gilbert, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.1 ppg, 47.1 FG%, 2.0 rpg, 10.8 mpg); Derrick Nix, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 3.5 apg, 1.0 spg, 40.7 3-pt%, 29.4 mpg).
Strengths: Jeremy Davis, Derrick Nix and Larry Gilbert have flashed the talent, if not the consistency, needed to become all-conference players. Joseph Pryor, a transfer from Penn State who won't be eligible until the second semester, can score.
Weaknesses: The Spartans lost six seniors from a team that scared Cincinnati in the NCAAs. A tough early-season schedule that includes trips to the Great Alaska Shootout, Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech could be a problem.
Outlook: If Davis, Nix, Gilbert and Pryor play well and the non-league schedule doesn't kill them, the Spartans, who move to the Southern Conference next season, will be dangerous.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Fleming Gym (2,320).

4. WINTHROP

Coach: Dan Kenney (32-78, 4 years; 156-156, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 7-19. Big South: 6-8/6th.
Key players: Todd Lassiter, C, 6-9/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 49.0 FG%, 29.5 mpg); Andrew McFalls, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 36.3 3-pt%, 15.0 mpg); Chad Steele, F, 6-7/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 6.8 rpg, 1.2 spg, 46.6 FG%, 31.9 mpg); Tyson Waterman, G, 6-0/Soph. (12.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.4 spg, 70.3 FT%, 37.7 3-pt%, 29.8 mpg).
Strengths: Winthrop returns three solid starters, including point guard Tyson Waterman, last year's top rookie. Andrew McFalls, who as a sixth man hit double figures 12 times last season, will start.
Weaknesses: Winthrop lost its best player and top scorer, David McMahan, to graduation. His absence will be a costly one if Waterman or Chad Steele can't make a smooth transition from second banana to go-to-guy.
Outlook: If the Eagles had McMahan, they might really take flight. But if Waterman, Steele and Todd Lassiter continue to improve, Winthrop still has a good chance to finish as high as third.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Rock Hill, S.C. **Home court:** Winthrop Coliseum (6,100).

5. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

Coach: Tom Conrad (1st year).
1995-96: 15-13. Big South: 9-5/T2nd.
Key players: Jeff Daniels, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.3 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.6 apg, 27.2 mpg); Rolando Hourruitiner, F, 6-6/Sr. (9.5 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 46.1 FG%, 35.8 3-pt%, 23.0 mpg); Brett Larrick, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 4.8 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 46.1 FG% 77.7 FT%, 39.7 3-pt %, 37.2 mpg); Errol McPherson, G, 5-10/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 4.9 apg, 1.9 spg, 78.1 FT% 35.1 mpg).
Strengths: The Bucs return the league's best big guard, Brett Larrick, and one of its top assist men, Errol McPherson. Jeff Daniels and Rolando Hourruitiner are steady forwards who should combine for 20 or more points most nights.
Weaknesses: The team must adjust to a new coach, former assistant Tom Conrad. Outside shooting and questionable depth probably will be the Bucs' real concerns.
Outlook: The talent is there, but the difficulty of replacing last year's conference player of the year, T.L. Latson, will keep the Bucs in the middle of the pack.
Last league title: 1987.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home courts:** CSU Fieldhouse (1,500); North Charleston Coliseum (3,000).

6. COASTAL CAROLINA

Coach: Michael Hopkins (11-41, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 5-21. Big South: 1-13/8th.
Key players: Ben Avery, F, 6-4/Sr. (16.7 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 2.0 spg, 31.9 mpg); Jake Carlisle, F, 6-7/Sr. (5.9 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 48.6 FG%, 22.5 mpg); Lee Grant, G, 6-4/Soph. (12.0 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 36.1 3-pt FG%, 24.3 mpg); Maurice Ingram, C, 6-8/Sr. (12.9 ppg, 9.2 rpg, 46.6 FG%, 32.2 mpg); Donald Moore, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.5 ppg, 2.8 rpg).
Strengths: The team should have one of the league's better-scoring frontlines with Maurice Ingram, Ben Avery and Jake Carlisle. Gerald King, a 6-4 guard, could give the Chanticleers much-needed perimeter scoring.
Weaknesses: The team shot the ball terribly last season, making 39 percent of its field goals and 62 percent of its free throws. The Chanticleers were especially bad from the outside, where no player who saw significant playing time made 37 percent of his 3-pointers. If there's no improvement, teams will smother the smallish Ingram and Avery on the inside.
Outlook: A talented frontcourt should lift the Chants out of the league cellar, but whether they finish more than one spot out of last depends on how well they shoot from behind the free-throw and 3-point lines.
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Conway, S.C. **Home courts:** Kimbel Gym (1,800); Myrtle Beach Convention Center (5,000).

7. UNC ASHEVILLE

Coach: Eddie Biedenbach (1st year; 29-51 overall, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 18-10. Big South: 9-5/T2nd.
Key players: Jeff Coble, G, 6-3/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 1.6 rpg, 13.8 mpg); Vincent Krieger, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 45.0 FG% 26.9 mpg); Josh Pittman, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (13.6 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.6 spg, 52.6 FG%, 28.6 mpg); Remco Smits, C, 7-0/Jr. (3.8 ppg, 56.5 FG%).
Strengths: Josh Pittman is one of the league's best all-around offensive talents, capable of scoring inside and outside. Vincent Krieger is a steady ballhandler who averaged almost 2.5 assists for every turnover last year.
Weaknesses: UNCA graduated three of its top four scorers from last season. Pittman is the only proven scorer returning for a team that also graduated its only strong rebounder.
Outlook: The Bulldogs lost a lot of talent and don't appear to have enough returning talent to avoid a major slide.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Asheville, N.C. **Home courts:** Justice Center (2,000); Asheville Civic Center (6,800).

8. MARYLAND-BALTIMORE CO.

Coach: Tom Sullivan (5-22, 1 year; 159-147 overall, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 5-22. Big South: 3-11/7th.
Key players: Lenny Barber, F, 6-8/Soph. (2.3 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 39.0 FG%, 13.9 mpg); Marc Lay, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.4 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.1 spg, 40.0 3-pt FG%); Alhamisi Simms, G, 6-2/Soph. (11.0 ppg, 88 FT%); Michael van Veen, G/F, 6-4/Soph. (4.5 ppg, 1.9 rpg).
Strengths: Alhamisi Simms was one of the league's top freshmen last year, while Marc Lay was a quality perimeter shooter. Isaac Green, a 6-6, 215-pound freshman forward, was a first team all-city selection last year in Newark, N.J.
Weaknesses: The smallish Retrievers, who shot just 39 percent from the field, lost their top scorer and leader, Tony Thompson, to graduation. Simms hit a miserable 34 percent of his field-goal attempts; Lay just 41 percent.
Outlook: 11 of 14 players have one year or less of college playing experience. That doesn't bode well for the Retrievers.
Last league title: None
Last NCAA appearance: None
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** UMBC Fieldhouse (4,024). ◆

Marc Harper covered UNC Greensboro and the Big South for the Greensboro (N.C.) News & Record last season. He now is a free-lance writer based in south Florida

TRANS AMERICA

Conference Rank: 23

By Cary Estes

EAST DIVISION

1. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON

Coach: John Kresse (412-109, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 25-4. TAAC East: 15-1/1st. Lost to Rhode Island in NIT second round.
Key players: Rodney Conner, F, 6-7/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 52.4 FG%, 28.8 mpg); Thaddeous Delaney, C, 6-8/Sr. (14.6 ppg, 11.4 rpg, 1.3 spg, 1.7 bpg, 54.6 FG%, 34.7 mpg); Stacy Harris, F, 6-4/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 1.4 spg, 45.2 FG%, 76.8 FT%, 35.3 3-pt%, 29.1 mpg); Anthony Johnson, G, 6-3/Sr. (11.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 6.7 apg, 1.6 spg, 46.0 FG%, 40.6 3-pt%, 32.6 mpg).
Strengths: All five starters return from last season's team, which led the league in defense, field-goal percentage, assists and steals. This is a focused, hungry bunch that feels it not only can make the NCAA Tournament but be a factor.
Weaknesses: The Cougars sank only 66.5 percent of their free throws last season.
Outlook: The Cougars are the unquestioned conference favorite and a legitimate NCAA team. The non-conference schedule is tough, so a good showing early in the season could lead to an NCAA invitation.
Last league title: 1996 (East Division).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Charleston, S.C. **Home court:** Johnson Center (3,052).

2. FLORIDA ATLANTIC

Coach: Kevin Billerman (9-18, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 9-18. TAAC East: 5-11/6th.
Key players: Craig Buchanan, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (16.4 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.4 spg, 79.2 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%); Phillip Huyler, G, 5-11/Sr. (13.0 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 3.0 apg, 2.3 spg, 74.4 FT%); Otis Kitchen, F, 6-6/Fr.; Cedric Peoples, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.6 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 55.0 FG%).
Strengths: The Owls have experienced scorers in the backcourt with Craig Buchanan and Phillip Huyler.
Weaknesses: FAU lacks a quality point guard. The Owls finished with 430 turnovers and 305 assists last season.
Outlook: Given that every team in the division except Charleston is rebuilding, FAU's experience should lead to a high division finish.
Last league title: None. **Last NCAA appearance:** None.
Site: Boca Raton, Fla. **Home court:** FAU Gym (5,000).

3. STETSON

Coach: Randy Brown (10-17, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 10-17. TAAC East: 6-10/T3rd.
Key players: Garrett Davis, G, 6-3/Soph. (6.3 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 81.4 FT%, 41.3 3-pt%, 23.0 mpg); Kennith Johnson, G, 6-0/Soph. (37.2 3-pt%, 20.0 mpg); Chad Lambert, F, 6-7/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 1.4 bpg, 56.9 FG%, 27.0 mpg).
Strengths: This club must improve its chemistry and unity. Coach Randy Brown couldn't sell his motion offense to Jason Alexander and Kerry Blackshear. But those two are gone, and Brown is molding the team around his philosophy.
Weaknesses: Alexander and Blackshear combined for 36 points and 12 rebounds per game. Their loss will hurt.
Outlook: The combination of a young team and the natural effects of a motion offense will make for some low-scoring and ugly games. It also might result in a better record than last season.
Last league title: 1994. **Last NCAA appearance:** None.
Site: DeLand, Fla. **Home court:** Edmunds Center (5,000).

4. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

Coach: Marcos "Shakey" Rodriguez (13-15, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 13-15. TAAC East: 6-10/T3rd.
Key players: Joe Cross, G, 6-3/Fr.; Gene Derkack, F, 6-6/Soph. (10.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 1.1 spg, 25.0 mpg); Dedric Taylor, G, 5-10/Sr. (14.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 3.4 apg, 1.7 spg, 73.3 FT%, 39.2 3-pt%, 33.9 mpg).
Strengths: FIU will rely heavily on its perimeter game, led by Dedric Taylor, the team's lone senior. Quickness is a key.
Weaknesses: FIU was outrebounded by an average of six per game last season, and lack of height again will be a problem. FIU must replace leading scorer Scott Forbes (17.3 ppg).
Outlook: The Panthers are counting on JC transfers. If they come through, a second-place finish is possible.
Last league title: 1993. **Last NCAA appearance:** 1995.
Site: Miami. **Home court:** Golden Panther Arena (5,000)

5. CENTRAL FLORIDA

Coach: Kirk Speraw (43-44, 3 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 11-19. TAAC East: 6-10/T3rd. Lost to Massachusetts in NCAA East first round.
Key players: Inyo Cue, G/F, 6-4/Fr.; Harry Kennedy, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (17.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 84.7 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 28.0 mpg); Mario Lovett, F, 6-6/Fr.; Scott White, C, 6-8/Fr.
Strengths: With seven newcomers, including five freshmen, the Golden Knights are not quite sure what they can and can't do. Leading scorer Harry Kennedy (17.2 ppg) is the only returning starter; he has tremendous range.
Weaknesses: UCF was unable to hold together the core of a team that qualified for the NCAA Tournament as TAAC tourney champs. The team lost potential starters Stacey Castle (academics), Brad Tice (transfer) and Eric Riggs (baseball).
Outlook: It's back to square one for UCF, which went into last season with seven newcomers and five freshmen.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Orlando. **Home court:** UCF Arena (5,100).

6. CAMPBELL

Coach: Billy Lee (154-157, 11 years; 275-245 overall, 18 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-11. TAAC East: 11-5/2nd.
Key players: Corey Best, G, 6-3/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.3 spg, 77.3 FT%, 30.1 mpg); Andre King, C, 6-7/Sr. (9.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 77.4 FT%, 25.9 mpg).
Strengths: The defense is smothering and the offense is a deliberate one that takes advantage of opportunities. The Camels had the second-best defense in the league last season but also had the league's second-lowest scoring average.
Weaknesses: The Camels must replace guard Scott Neely, their top scorer (15.1 ppg) and best 3-point shooter (42.5 percent). There are only two seniors on the team.
Outlook: Campbell has never improved its record in consecutive seasons during coach Billy Lee's 11 years at the school. After going 17-11 last season, the Camels will have a hard time getting over that hump this year.
Last league title: None. **Last NCAA appearance:** 1992.
Site: Buies Creek, N.C. **Home court:** Carter Gym (945).

WEST DIVISION

1. SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

Coach: John Lyles (27-28, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 15-12. TAAC West: 11-5/T1st.
Key players: Noble Evans, F/C, 6-6/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 45.6 FG%, 23.4 mpg); Rico Grant, G, 6-3/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 5.6 apg, 1.9 spg, 72.0 FT%, 27.8 mpg); Troy Green, G, 5-10/Soph. (16.6 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.2 spg, 73.2 FT%, 29.2 mpg); Eric Myles, G, 5-10/Soph. (transfer/Georgetown; eligible second semester).
Strengths: The Lions were first in the TAAC and seventh in the nation in scoring last season (85 ppg). Troy Green, last season's TAAC Newcomer of the Year, figures to lead the 3-point assault. Georgetown transfer Eric Myles should help.
Weaknesses: The powerful frontcourt duo of Sam Bowie and Jason Winningham (combined for 36.8 ppg and 15.5 rpg) is gone. They will be replaced by two transfers.
Outlook: If shots are falling, the Lions will win their share. But they have to shoot well to offset a mediocre defense.
Last league title: 1996 (tie, Western Division).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hammond, La. **Home court:** University Center (7,500).

2. SAMFORD

Coach: John Brady (70-68, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 16-11. TAAC West: 11-5/T1st.
Key players: Dusko Ivaz, C, 6-10/Sr. (4.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 42.5 FT%, 11.9 mpg); Jonathan Pixley, F, 6-5/Sr. (20.0 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 2.6 apg, 86.8 FT%, 40.9 3-pt%, 35.5 mpg); Freddie Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (6.2 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 52.1 FG%, 70.2 FT%, 23.3 mpg).
Strengths: The frontcourt, anchored by Jonathan Pixley, is solid. Pixley will contend for TAAC player of the year honors.
Weaknesses: There is no experience in the backcourt. Joey Davenport (17.4 ppg) and Jeff Taylor (6.9 ppg) are gone.
Outlook: A lot depends on Pixley, who could be forced to carry the team early.
Last league title: 1996 (tie, West Division).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Birmingham, Ala. **Home court:** Seibert Hall (4,000).

3. GEORGIA STATE

Coach: Carter Wilson (21-33, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 10-16. TAAC West: 6-10/5th.
Key players: Terrence Evans, F, 6-8/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 45.6 FG%, 19.6 mpg); Rodney Hamilton, G, 5-9/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 78.3 FT%, 33.0 mpg); Shellord Pinkett, G, 6-0/Jr. (9.7 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 75.6 FT%, 28.3 mpg).
Strengths: Rodney Hamilton returns. Without him to run the team, the inexperienced Panthers would be in big trouble.
Weaknesses: At 41.6 percent, GSU's shooting last season was the worst in the league. And two of the better shooters, Terrence Brandon and Travis Williams, are gone.
Outlook: After a 6-12 start, the Panthers improved at the end of the season, winning four of their final eight and losing two in overtime. But with only two returning starters, that finish probably will not provide much of a carryover.
Last league title: None. **Last NCAA appearance:** 1991.
Site: Atlanta. **Home court:** GSU Sports Arena (4,200).

4. MERCER

Coach: Bill Hodges (59-84, 5 years; 236-184 overall, 14 years; 4-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-14. TAAC West: 7-9/4th.
Key players: Mark Adams, F, 6-6/Fr.; Lance Carter, F, 6-8/Sr.; Ryan Robinson, F, 6-8/Sr. (8.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 28.9 mpg); Kevin Skurka, C, 6-9/Soph. (3.6 rpg, 15.5 mpg).
Strengths: Ryan Robinson is the only returning starter from last season's senior-laden team.
Weaknesses: There isn't any experience to replace all those departed players, or size to replace 6-9 forward Scott Farley (12.8 ppg, 12.0 rpg).
Outlook: The Bears won a total of 30 games the past two seasons after going 5-24 in 1993-94. They probably will not be as bad as that season or as good as the past two.
Last league title: None. **Last NCAA appearance:** 1985.
Site: Macon, Ga. **Home court:** Macon Coliseum (8,500).

5. CENTENARY

Coach: Tommy Vardeman (95-101, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 11-16. TAAC West: 8-8/3rd.
Key players: Ricky Fernandez, F, 6-7/Fr.; Paxton Ross, F, 6-8/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 45.1 FG%, 21.8 mpg); Roy Shvartzapel, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 10.1 mpg).
Strengths: Hard to find. The top returning player is Paxton Ross, who averaged 8.5 points and 4.6 rebounds last season.
Weaknesses: The Gents lost four starters, including all-conference forward Lincoln Abrams, who led the team in scoring (18.3 ppg) and rebounding (8.6 rpg). The team sank only 29.6 percent from 3-point range last season.
Outlook: Centenary has won more than 11 games in a season only once in the past five years. Expect that to continue.
Last league title: 1990. **Last NCAA appearance:** None.
Site: Shreveport, La. **Home court:** The Gold Dome (4,000).

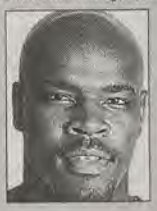
6. JACKSONVILLE STATE

Coach: Bill Jones (427-178, 22 years; 455-195 overall, 24 years).
1995-96 record: 10-17. TAAC West: 4-12/6th.
Key players: Rusty Brand, C, 6-7/Sr. (13 ppg, 8.9 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 60.2 FG%, 81.6 FT%, 32.2 mpg); Aaron Kelley, G, 6-2/Sr. (15 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 71.0 FT%, 34.2 mpg); Jay Knowlton, F, 6-5/Jr. (8.4 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 26.0 mpg).
Strengths: JSU returns four of its top five players. The coaching staff now has a better feel of what to expect after last year's move into Division I.
Weaknesses: JSU still has the look and build of a Division II team. Strength and depth could be a problem, though not as much as last season.
Outlook: Coach Bill Jones says he still is two recruiting classes away from being able to adequately employ the press-and-run style of play he used in Division II. The Gamecocks simply hope to improve on last season's 10-17 mark.
Last league title: None. **Last NCAA appearance:** None.
Site: Jacksonville, Ala. **Home court:** Mathews Coliseum (5,500). ◆

Cary Estes is a sportswriter for the Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald.

ALL-TAAC TEAM

Thaddeous Delaney, C, 6-8/250, Sr., Charleston
Troy Green, G, 5-10/160, Soph., SE Louisiana
Stacy Harris, F, 6-4/185, Sr., Charleston
Harry Kennedy, G/F, 6-5/180, Sr., Central Florida
Jonathan Pixley, F, 6-5/205, Sr., Samford



PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Thaddeous Delaney, C, College of Charleston.

Newcomer of the Year: Eric Myles, G, SE Louisiana.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Harry Kennedy, Central Florida.
Best rebounder: Thaddeous Delaney, Charleston.
Best playmaker: Rodney Hamilton, Georgia State.
Best defender: Rodney Conner, Charleston.
Best leaper: Herbert Lang, Centenary.
Best under 6 foot: Troy Green, SE Louisiana.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Craig Buchanan, Florida Atlantic.
Most flamboyant: None.
Best NBA prospect: Thaddeous Delaney, Charleston.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

NORTHEAST

Conference Rank: 24

By Tony Graham

ALL-NORTHEAST TEAM

Corey Albano, F, 6-9/235, Sr., Monmouth
Charles Jones, G, 6-3/180, Jr., Long Island U.
Richie Parker, G/F, 6-5/190, Fr., Long Island U.
Dan Seigle, F, 6-6/205, Jr., Wagner
Rahshon Turner, F, 6-6/200, Jr., Fairleigh Dickinson

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Corey Albano, F, Monmouth.

Newcomer of the Year: Richie Parker, G/F, Long Island U.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Silas Cheung, Mount St. Mary's.
Best rebounder: Frantz Pierre-Louis, Wagner.
Best playmaker: John Thomas, St. Francis (N.Y.).
Best defender: Giedrius Aidietis, Monmouth.
Best leaper: Raymond Touomou, Rider.
Best under 6 foot: Dave Masciale, Long Island U.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Dan Seigle, Wagner.
Most flamboyant: Rahshon Turner, Fairleigh Dickinson.
Best NBA prospect: Corey Albano, Monmouth.

1. WAGNER

Coach: Tim Capstraw (85-113, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 10-17. Northeast: 7-11/6th.
Key players: Warren Anderson, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.0 apg, 2.4 spg, 76.5 FT%, 26.6 mpg); Frantz Pierre-Louis, C, 6-8/Jr. (14.2 ppg, 9.7 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 58.3 FG%, 71.0 FT%, 26.2 mpg); Ryan Reed, F, 6-7/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 57.4 FG%, 31.3 mpg); Jason Roberts, G/F, Jr. (8.9 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 24.2 mpg); Dan Seigle, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 76.4 FT%, 37.0 3-pt%, 31.5 mpg).
Strengths: There is an impressive frontcourt, thanks to the versatility of Dan Seigle and the strong rebounding of Frantz Pierre-Louis and Ryan Reed. Warren Anderson and Jason Roberts are explosive.
Weaknesses: The Seahawks need a better assist (82) to turnover (75) ratio from Anderson and need backcourt help from freshman Darius Wright and JC combo guard Ryan Lewis.
Outlook: The talented Seahawks have been building steadily toward a championship. If the guards jell in a league of mainly inexperienced playmakers, it could be this year.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Staten Island, N.Y. **Home court:** Frederic Sutter Gymnasium (1,650).

2. LONG ISLAND U.

Coach: Ray Haskins (9-19, 1 year; 22-33 overall, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 9-19. Northeast: 5-13/8th.
Key players: Robin Dickerson, F, 6-6/Jr. (11.8 ppg, 8.5 rpg, 1.3 spg, 1.8 bpg, 45.4 FG%, 29.4 mpg); Jason Feeley, G, 6-4/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.5 spg, 70.3 FT%, 31.0 mpg); Charles Jones, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Rutgers); Dave Masciale, G, 5-10/Sr. (17.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 5.1 apg, 2.4 spg, 78.4 FT%, 35.0 mpg); Richie Parker, G/F, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: There is speed and athleticism. Coach Ray Haskins has reaped a recruiting bonanza, with Richie Parker, Charles Jones, St. Louis U. transfer Greg Hardin and JC transfer Mike Campbell fueling an athletic mix.
Weaknesses: Though LIU led the NEC in scoring last year (77.1 ppg), it was last in scoring defense (87.1 ppg). Lack of size in the frontcourt equals questionable rebounding. Also, will there be enough basketballs for all the shooters?
Outlook: There's pennant fever in Brooklyn for the first time since the Blackbirds' last NCAA visit. LIU will run, gun and press for 40 minutes in an attempt to wreak havoc.
Last league title: 1984 (ECAC Metro).
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Brooklyn, N.Y. **Home court:** Schwartz Athletic Center (1,700).

3. MONMOUTH

Coach: Wayne Szoke (146-109, 9 years; 186-150 overall, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 20-10. Northeast: 14-4/T2nd. Lost to Marquette in NCAA East first round.
Key players: Giedrius Aidietis, C, 6-9/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.3 bpg, 26.6 mpg); Corey Albano, F, 6-9/Sr. (17.2 ppg, 7.3 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.0 bpg, 56.7 FG%, 72.1 FT%, 32.3 mpg); Mustafa Barksdale, G, 6-5/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.6 spg, 70.0 FT%, 37.4 3-pt%, 31.4 mpg); Quincy Lee, F, 6-4/Sr. (9.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 1.4 apg, 45.3 FG%, 78.9 FT%, 26.4 mpg).
Strengths: The Hawks return four senior starters and key reserve Jeff Franklin from last season's NEC Tournament champion team. They will be strong inside with Corey Albano, should get a big year from Quincy Lee and need one from Mustafa Barksdale.
Weaknesses: Point guard and depth. The graduation of All-NEC point guard and school career scoring leader John Giraldo leaves a major void.
Outlook: Last season's NCAA Tournament run was filled with highlights. If a player or two steps up from the sophomore or freshman class, the Hawks will produce more highlights.
Last league title: None.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: West Long Branch, N.J. **Home court:** Boylan Gym (2,500).

4. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON

Coach: Tom Green (219-157, 13 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 7-20. Northeast: 6-12/7th.
Key players: Andre Dasher, G/F, 6-2/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 56.7 FG%, 19.4 mpg); Tedaryl Fason, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Jemo King, C, 6-7/Soph. (4.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 18.7 mpg); Rob Norris, G, 6-2/Soph. (10.8 ppg, 1.1 spg, 38.1 3-pt%); Rahshon Turner, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.4 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 58.6 FG%, 27.4 mpg).
Strengths: Rahshon Turner, the NEC newcomer of the year as a freshman, and Jemo King, slowed by a bad ankle last season, should help comprise a nasty front line. Tedaryl Fason was a JC All-American (23.2 ppg) at Kankakee (Ill.) CC.
Weaknesses: Ballhandling and free-throw shooting (62 percent) were major woes last year. The expected return of junior point Elijah Allen from ankle problems would help remedy the league's worst turnover margin (minus-6.2).
Outlook: FDU will be in the title hunt if King and Allen are healthy and Fason is the impact player the Knights envision.
Last league title: 1991 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Teaneck, N.J. **Home court:** Rothman Center (5,000).

5. ST. FRANCIS (PA.)

Coach: Tom McConnell (47-63, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 13-14. Northeast: 11-7/5th.
Key players: Emmanuel Adekunle, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.0 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 1.1 bpg, 48.3 FG%, 18.7 mpg); Sotiris Aggelou, G, 6-3/Jr. (transfer/Pitt); Terrence Martin, F, 6-4/Sr. (13.3 ppg, 5.5 rpg, 1.2 spg, 87.5 FT%, 29.4 mpg); Eric Taylor, C, 6-8/Jr. (8.0 ppg, 6.5 rpg, 46.0 FG%, 28.6 mpg).
Strengths: There is a solid frontcourt with Terrence Martin, Eric Taylor and Emmanuel Adekunle. Martin is developing into one of top all-around players in the NEC. A good defensive team will only get better with some support from newcomers.
Weaknesses: The starting backcourt is gone. Question marks are at the point and on the boards.
Outlook: The team could improve on last year's NEC record, the best since since its NCAA Tournament year (24-8, 13-3).
Last league title: 1991.
Last NCAA appearance: 1991.
Site: Loretto, Pa. **Home court:** Stokes Athletics Center (3,500).

6. RIDER

Coach: Kevin Bannon (117-89, 7 years; 262-136, 14 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-11. Northeast: 12-6/4th.
Key players: Greg Burston, G, 6-3/Soph. (9.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 81.0 FT%, 39.7 3-pt%, 23.3 mpg); Dimitri Charles, F, 6-6/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 56.6 FG%, 21.6 mpg); Kevin McPeek, C, 6-8/Jr. (8.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 47.8 FG%, 79.7 FT%, 28.0 mpg); Chris Stansel, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Raymond Touomou, G, 6-4/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 71.4 FT%, 18.5 mpg).
Strengths: Greg Burston should emerge as a premier NEC bomber, and Raymond Touomou remains a spectacular talent in waiting. JC transfers are being counted on up front.
Weaknesses: The loss of senior forward Charles Smith (21.1 ppg, 6.9 rpg.) to a one-year "team rules violation" suspension and the graduation of school career assist leader Deon Hames are staggering blows for a team with no senior leadership.
Outlook: Too much talent and experience have departed. The run of five consecutive winning seasons and four straight NEC championship game appearances under coach Kevin Bannon is in jeopardy.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Lawrenceville, N.J. **Home court:** Alumni Gym (1,650).

7. MOUNT ST. MARY'S

Coach: Jim Phelan (758-400, 42 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-8. Northeast: 16-2/1st. Lost to Illinois State in NIT first round.
Key players: Silas Cheung, G, 6-2/Sr. (9.4 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 42.6 3-pt%, 22.9 mpg); Irving Conwell, G, 6-4/Fr.; Newton Gayle, C, 6-8/Jr. (transfer/Niagara); Tony Hayden, F, 6-5/Soph. (5.8 ppg, 45.9 FG%, 72.7 FT%, 40.8 3-pt%, 19.7 mpg); Gerben Van Dorpe, C, 6-11/Jr. (8.8 ppg, 5.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 2.5 bpg, 73.3 FT%, 29.7 mpg).
Strengths: Gerben Van Dorpe and Silas Cheung return from last year's NEC regular-season champions, who went 13-1 at home. Tony Hayden showed flashes of promise. The Mount is counting on instant help from transfer Newton Gayle and Irving Conwell, who should be one of the league's best freshman.
Weaknesses: The Mount lost more than 4,000 career points and 61 percent of last year's offense with the departure of NEC Player of the Year Chris McGuthrie (22.9 ppg), backcourt partner Riley Inge and reserve guard Jeff Balistrere.
Outlook: Phelan, second on the Division I active wins list behind Dean Smith, hopes to quickly reload this season, but too many experience-laden teams block the way.
Last league title: 1996.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Emmitsburg, Md. **Home court:** Knott Arena (3,197).

8. MARIST

Coach: Dave Magarity (151-134, 10 years; 211-210 overall, 15 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-7. Northeast: 14-4/T2nd. Lost to Rhode Island in NIT first round.
Key players: Sebastian Bellin, F/C, 6-9/Fr.; Randy Encarnacion, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 79.7 FT%, 38.8 3-pt%, 24.6 mpg); Dennis Keenan, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Rhode Island); Tom Kenney, F/C, 6-10/Fr.; Manny Otero, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Lucas Pisarczyk, F, 6-8/Sr. (4.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 12.9 mpg).
Strengths: The backcourt should get a boost from JC transfer Manny Otero, who shot 49 percent from 3-point land at Central Arizona College. Lucas Pisarczyk should be a steadying influence, and the Red Foxes hope newcomers will shore up the front line.
Weaknesses: Marist lost its four top scorers.
Outlook: There's some promising young talent, but the Red Foxes' final tour through the NEC (they move to the MAAC with Rider next season) looks like a rebuilding one.
Last league title: 1988 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Poughkeepsie, N.Y. **Home court:** McCann Center (3,944).

9. ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.)

Coach: Ron Ganulin (43-44, 5 years; 70-117 overall, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 9-18. Northeast: 3-15/9th.
Key players: Solomon Abel, G, 5-11/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 4.2 apg, 1.5 spg, 52.6 FG%, 29.8 mpg); Danny Manning, F, 6-6/Sr. (10.7 ppg, 7.0 rpg, 1.1 spg, 1.2 bpg, 54.4 FG%, 32.1 mpg); John Thomas, G, 5-9/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Danny Manning is solid, and the addition of JC transfer John Thomas will help. If Solmon Abel returns strong from knee surgery, the point should be solid.
Weaknesses: Abel's durability is a question. St. Francis' three leading outside shooters from last year are gone, and the team has just one senior.
Outlook: Something always goes awry for the Terriers, who have produced just two winning seasons in the past 17. It's just a matter of what it will be.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Brooklyn Heights, N.Y. **Home court:** P.E. Center (1,400).

10. ROBERT MORRIS

Coach: Jim Boone (1st year; 228-71 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 5-23. Northeast: 2-16/10th.
Key players: Damien Delts, F, 6-8/Jr. (7.0 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 21.0 mpg); Billy Erwin, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.2 ppg, 81.8 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 23.3 mpg); Keith Jones, F, 6-6/Soph. (8.7 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 23.3 mpg); Steve Napper, F, 6-7/Jr. (transfer/Winthrop); Javier Smith, G, 5-10/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 3.1 apg, 77.1 FT%, 25.7 mpg).
Strengths: The good news: The Colonials return seven of their top eight scorers.
Weaknesses: The bad news: None of the scorers averaged in double figures, and junior Bacari Alexander, the No. 2 rebounder (4.2 rpg.) and No. 3 scorer (7.6 ppg), transferred to Detroit.
Outlook: The school's five NCAA appearances are still the most in the conference, but it may be a few more years until the next one.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Coraopolis, Pa. **Home court:** Sewall Center (3,056). ◆

Tony Graham covers Monmouth University and the Northeast Conference for the Asbury Park (N.J.) Press.

1. JACKSON STATE

Coach: Andy Stoglin (110-99, 7 years; 143-122 overall, 9 years).
1995-96 record: 16-13. SWAC: 11-3/T1st.
Key players: DeCarto Draper, G, 6-1/Jr. (5.1 ppg, 1.3 apg, 37.7 3-pt%, 75.0 FT%, 13.5 mpg); Jermaine Harden, C, 6-9/Sr. (2.7 rpg, 12.8 mpg); Joseph McKenny, F, 6-7/Jr. (JC); Trent Pulliam, F, 6-8/Jr. (10.8 ppg, 7.9 rpg, 1.2 spg, 1.2 bpg; 73.5 FT%, 29.9 mpg); Vance White, G, 6-6/Jr. (5.0 ppg, 13.2 mpg).
Strengths: Coach Andy Stoglin believes this could be one of his best shooting teams, thanks to the return of DeCarto Draper, Trent Pulliam and Vance White. Pulliam is versatile enough to play every position.
Weaknesses: The Tigers lost two proven leaders in guards Titus Hooten and Rod Taylor. The club lacks an experienced point guard, and inside scoring could be a problem.
Outlook: A solid perimeter game, depth (especially at small forward) and solid rebounding should make Jackson State a contender to repeat as SWAC champs.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Jackson, Miss. **Home court:** Lee E. Williams Athletics & Assembly Center (8,000).

2. SOUTHERN

Coach: Tommy Green (1st year).
1995-96 record: 16-11. SWAC: 9-5/3rd.
Key players: Corey Davis, C, 6-8/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.1 spg, 53.7 FG%, 76.3 FT%, 17.2 mpg); Derrick Kidd, G, 5-8/Sr. (10.4 ppg, 4.4 apg, 2.4 rpg, 1.4 spg, 34.7 3-pt%, 27.4 mpg); Vandale Thomas, G, 6-4/Sr. (18.8 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.7 spg, 35.1 3-pt%, 32.3 mpg); Ronnell Williams, F, 6-7/Jr. (12.7 ppg, 6.9 rpg, 2.1 spg, 52.7 FG%, 28.1 mpg).
Strengths: Southern returns a solid starting nucleus in guards Derrick Kidd and Vandale Thomas, forward Ronnell Williams and center Corey Davis. That quartet combined for 48.6 percent of the team's 89.9 points and 20.1 of 39.8 rebounds last season.
Weaknesses: The Jaguars tried four different post players before settling on Davis, who is nicknamed "Slim" because of his slender frame that isn't made for the position.
Outlook: Southern figures to make an easy transition from the enigmatic Ben Jobe, who left to coach Division II Tuskegee, to long-time assistant Tommy Green. This should be the Jaguars' best team since 1992-93, when they defeated Georgia Tech for the school's first NCAA Tournament victory.
Last league title: 1990.
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baton Rouge, La. **Home court:** F.G. Clark Center (7,500).

3. ALCORN STATE

Coach: Davey Whitney (395-199, 20 years; 442-244 overall, 25 years; NCAA Tournament record: 3-4.).
1995-96 record: 10-15. SWAC: 7-7/4th.
Key players: Brian Adams, G/F, 6-6/Fr.; DeCarlos Anderson, F, 6-6/Sr. (20.0 ppg.; 7.2 rpg, 33.9 mpg); Kevin Batiste, G, 6-1/Sr. (13.8 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 2.6 spg, 75.6 FT%, 28.3 mpg); Karl Jones, F, 6-6/Jr. (14.9 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 51.2 FG%, 28.8 mpg); Karshae Peterson, G, 6-2/Sr. (37.1 3-pt%, 16.7 mpg); Reuben Stiff, G, 5-9/Soph. (12.7 ppg, 5.6 apg, 3.8 rpg, 2.0 spg, 74.1 FT%, 33.6 mpg).
Strengths: Point guard Reuben Stiff and forward Karl Jones give Alcorn State one of the SWAC's strongest inside-outside combinations. Stiff averaged 12.7 points and 5.6 assists and Jones 14.9 points and 5.3 rebounds. Freshman Brian Adams can play shooting guard or small forward.
Weaknesses: Former coach Davey Whitney, who led the Braves to nine regular-season championships during his previous tenure, returns to the college ranks after a seven-year absence. His last two teams had a combined 8-46 record.
Outlook: Alcorn State has high hopes for Whitney's return, even though the 66-year-old coach says, "I'm not a savior. I'm not wearing a black collar." The Braves' victory total has increased in each of the past two seasons, from three to seven to 10.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Last league title: 1986 (tie).
Site: Lorman, Miss. **Home court:** Davey Whitney Complex (7,000).

4. TEXAS SOUTHERN

Coach: Robert Moreland: (340-265, 21 years; NCAA Tournament record: 0-3).
1995-96 record: 11-15. SWAC: 6-8/T5th.
Key players: Randy Bolden, G, 6-2/Jr. (19.6 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 2.4 apg, 33.8 3-pt%, 71.4 FT%); Corey Brotherton, F, 6-7/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 3.6 rpg); Thomas Dodd, C, 6-10/Jr. (6.8 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.0 bpg); John Rhodes, F, 6-7/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 4.8 rpg).
Strengths: Texas Southern features a solid nucleus in guards Randy Bolden and Drexel transfer Leland Redmond, forwards Corey Brotherton and John Rhodes and center Thomas Dodd.
Weaknesses: Bolden or Redmond must fill the void left by the departure of Kevin Granger, who last season led the SWAC in scoring and free-throw percentage.
Outlook: Texas Southern should avoid a repeat of last season, when coach Robert Moreland's team fell apart after the athletic department was placed on the NCAA's restricted membership list and all teams were declared ineligible for postseason play. That denied the Tigers a shot at their third consecutive regular-season and tournament titles.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Houston. **Home court:** Health & PE Arena (8,100).

SWAC

Conference Rank: 25

By Scott Gremillion

ALL-SWAC TEAM

Karl Jones, F, 6-6/219, Jr., Alcorn State
Trent Pulliam, F, 6-8/200, Jr., Jackson State
Reuben Stiff, G, 5-9/160, Soph., Alcorn State
Vandale Thomas, G, 6-4/190, Sr., Southern
Ronnell Williams, F, 6-7/210, Jr., Southern

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Vandale Thomas, G, Southern.

Newcomer of the Year: Brian Adams, G/F, Alcorn State.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Darrick McGriff, Alabama State.
Best rebounder: Ronnell Williams, Southern.
Best playmaker: Rueben Stiff, Alcorn State.
Best defender: Ronnell Williams, Southern.
Best leaper: Vandale Thomas, Southern.
Best under 6 foot: Rueben Stiff, Alcorn State.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Trent Pulliam, Jackson State.
Most flamboyant: Vandale Thomas, Southern.
Best NBA prospect: Ronnell Williams, Southern.

5. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

Coach: Lafayette Stribling (191-191, 13 years; 0-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-7. SWAC: 11-3/T1st. Lost to Georgetown in NCAA East first round.
Key players: Anthony Davis, G, 6-0/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 4.3 apg, 2.7 rpg, 1.4 spg, 29.6 mpg); Kenyon Ross, G, 6-6/Jr. (5.8 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.2 apg, 1.3 spg; 50.4 FG%, 15.4 mpg); Faragi Phillips, G, 6-2/Jr. (5.7 ppg; 31.5 3-pt%, 16.0 mpg).
Strengths: The Delta Devils will be a good shooting team, and the inside game should develop. Lafayette Stribling will use the club's quickness to run and press.
Weaknesses: How do you replace a do-everything player like Marcus Mann, who ranked first in the SWAC in rebounding (13.8) and field-goal percentage (61.8), second in scoring (21.6) and even sang the national anthem before a game?
Outlook: After losing three starters, Valley should find it difficult to duplicate the accomplishments of last season. But if the interior defense and scoring, along with rebounding, improve, Valley may surprise.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Itta Bena, Miss. **Home court:** Harrison Athletic Complex (6,000).

6. GRAMBLING

Coach: Lacey Reynolds (12-16, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 12-16. SWAC: 6-8/T5th.
Key players: Anthony Hill, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (3.3 ppg, 2.4 rpg); Kevin Howard, G, 6-0/Sr. (5.3 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 2.1 apg).
Strengths: The Tigers are quick, deep and athletic, which means Lacey Reynolds will have his team running. Kevin Howard could provide much-needed senior leadership.
Weaknesses: The Tigers must find a replacement for shooting guard James Hannah and center Michael Tardy. Hannah averaged 17.9 points and ranked among SWAC leaders in 3-point percentage, while Tardy was second in rebounding and field-goal percentage.
Outlook: Reynolds needs a repeat of last season, when he pulled off one of the best coaching jobs in the league by taking a team picked to finish seventh to the semifinals of the SWAC Tournament. He'll be hard-pressed to repeat that performance because of the Tigers' inexperience.
Last league title: 1989 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Grambling, La. **Home court:** Memorial Gym (4,000).

7. ALABAMA STATE

Coach: Rob Spivery (1st year).
1995-96 record: 9-18. SWAC: 6-8/T5th.
Key players: Reginald Harris, G, 6-2/Sr. (12.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.0 spg; 45.0 3-pt%, 32.9 mpg); Robert Jackson, G, 6-5/Jr. (6.1 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 16.8 mpg); Darrick McGriff, G, 6-0/Sr. (18.7 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 2.7 apg, 2.3 spg, 36.3 3-pt%, 77.9 FT%, 31.7 mpg).
Strengths: Alabama State boasts two of the best guards in the SWAC in Reginald Harris and Darrick McGriff. The Hornets will rely on their outside shooting and ballhandling to carry them in critical situations.
Weaknesses: Rob Spivery becomes the Hornets' third coach in as many seasons. After an 11-month search that featured several high-profile coaches turning down the job, Spivery was lured from Division II Ashland (Ohio). But while the coaching job remained unfilled, recruiting suffered. Spivery also must deal with a lack of size and rebounding strength.
Outlook: Spivery comes to a program that is on a downward spiral. Alabama State should continue sliding down the conference standings after being selected as the preseason favorite three years ago.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Montgomery, Ala. **Home court:** Joe L. Reed Acadome (8,000).

8. PRAIRIE VIEW

Coach: Elwood Plummer (97-223, 6 years).
1995-96 record: 3-23. SWAC: 0-14/8th.
Key players: Derick Malone, F, 6-5/Soph. (11.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 66.7 FT%); King Whetstone, G, 6-1/Jr. (2.8 ppg, 1.8 apg, 1.7 rpg); Tammaron Sharp, F/G, 6-3/Jr. (17.1 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.7 spg, 1,6 apg, 54.9 FG%).
Strengths: Underrated swingman Tammaron Sharp was a bright spot last season, ranking among SWAC leaders in scoring, steals and field-goal percentage.
Weaknesses: The Panthers need replacements for forwards William Evans and Cedric Seymore. The psychological effect of the mounting losses is hard to overcome, and a lack of size will continue to be a problem.
Outlook: Prairie View should be more competitive, thanks to the reinstatement of five scholarships. Sure, the Panthers were winless in conference play last year, but six of the losses were by nine points or less.
Last league title: 1962.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Prairie View, Texas. **Home court:** Baby Dome (5,000). ◆

Scott Gremillion covers Southern University and the SWAC for the Baton Rouge (La.) Advocate.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Thomas, a junior, is one of four returning starters for Southern.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

SOUTHLAND

Conference Rank: 26

By Carl Dubois

ALL-SOUTHLAND TEAM

Anthony Cook, F, 6-3/186, Sr., NE Louisiana
Mike Dillard, G, 6-6/180, Sr., Sam Houston State
Nick Dillon, F, 6-7/214, Sr., NE Louisiana
Kenderick Franklin, F, 6-6/180, Jr., Nicholls State
Robert Palmer, G, 6-4/185, Sr., McNeese State.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Anthony Cook, F, NE Louisiana.

Newcomer of the Year: Wayne Allen, F, S.F. Austin.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Todd Briley, McNeese State.
Best rebounder: Elijah Hobley, SW Texas State.
Best playmaker: Daryl Jones, Northeast Louisiana.
Best defender: Dennis Newton, Northeast Louisiana.
Best leaper: Anthony Cook, Northeast Louisiana.
Best under 6 foot: Rodney Walton, SW Texas State.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Kenderick Franklin, Nicholls State.
Most flamboyant: Anthony Cook, Northeast Louisiana.
Best NBA prospect: Nick Dillon, Northeast Louisiana.

1. NORTHEAST LOUISIANA

Coach: Mike Vining (280-166, 15 years; 0-7 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 16-14. Southland: 13-5/1st. Lost to Wake Forest in NCAA Midwest first round.
Key players: Anthony Cook, F, 6-3/Sr. (10.1 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 1.3 spg, 75.6 FT%, 36.0 3-pt%, 24.5 mpg); Nick Dillon, F, 6-7/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 5.2 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 32.1 mpg); Terrell Jeter, G/F, 6-2/Fr.; Daryl Jones, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Dennis Newton, C, 6-9/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.5 bpg, 53.0 FG%, 21.8 mpg); John Stokes, C/F, 6-7/Sr. (5.4 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 78.0 FT%, 16.2 mpg).
Strengths: The Indians have tradition, confidence playing at home and coach Mike Vining. They have been the SLC's representative in the NCAA Tournament five times this decade, and another athletic group of players should put them back into the postseason mix again this season.
Weaknesses: There is no heir apparent to Paul Marshall, the SLC's leading scorer (21.3 ppg) last year. The Indians also must become more consistent, especially in the backcourt.
Outlook: In the past nine years, Northeast's worst finish in the SLC is a second-place tie. Vining, who knows how to recruit swingmen who can run, jump and play aggressive defense, will notch career win No. 300 this season.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Monroe, La. **Home court:** Ewing Coliseum (8,000).

2. McNEESE STATE

Coach: Ron Everhart (26-28, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 15-12. Southland: 11-7/T4th.
Key players: Todd Briley, G, 6-1/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 36.8 3-pt%, 18.1 mpg); Andre Burks, G, 6-0/Soph. (transfer/UMass; eligible second semester); Rosell Ellis, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.1 apg, 2.3 spg, 55.3 FG%, 32.7 mpg); Donald Fisher, C, 6-9/Sr. (12.1 ppg, 6.1 rpg, 50.8 FG%, 26.9 mpg); Desmond Mallet, G, 6-1/Fr.; Robert Palmer, G, 6-4/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.2 spg, 72.4 FT%, 46.2 FG%, 31.6 mpg); Alvydas Pazdrazdis, F, 6-7/Sr. (RS).
Strengths: The Cowboys potentially have the best frontcourt in the league with the return of Alvydas Pazdrazdis, a Lithuanian who won a bronze medal in the 1992 Olympics. Aggressive defense will create a lot of scoring opportunities.
Weaknesses: The departure of Pointer Williams, who led the nation in steals, leaves a void at point guard. UMass transfer Andre Burks won't be eligible until at least midseason, leaving the position in untested hands at the start of the season.
Outlook: The Cowboys had their first winning season in six years last season and were talented enough to win the SLC, but they lost five of their last seven games. Coach Ron Everhart must figure out what went wrong if McNeese is to avoid another disappointing finish.
Last league title: 1978.
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Lake Charles, La. **Home court:** Burton Coliseum (8,000).

3. SW TEXAS STATE

Coach: Mike Miller (23-29, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 11-15. Southland: 7-11/T7th.
Key players: Geoff Golden, G, 5-10/Sr. (RS/ankle); Elijah Hobley, F, 6-6/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 5.9 rpg, 1.3 spg, 45.1 FG%, 27.4 mpg); Donte Mathis, G/F, 6-3/Soph. (8.9 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 1.1 spg, 70.5 FT%, 26.7 mpg); Dameon Sansom, G, 6-0/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 2.9 apg, 1.3 spg, 85.1 FT%, 35.8 mpg); Rodney Walton, G, 5-10/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.1 apg, 1.1 spg, 80.4 FT%, 26.3 mpg).
Strengths: The Bobcats return 77 percent of their scoring and 76 percent of their rebounding. Dameon Sansom, Donte Mathis and Rodney Walton may be the best perimeter threesome in the conference. Elijah Hobley is a clutch rebounder.
Weaknesses: The inside game and point guard play were inconsistent a year ago. The Bobcats also seemed to suffer from a leadership void, struggling on the road and playing uninspired after January 22 (3-8). The return of six seniors may help change that.
Outlook: If Geoff Golden is healthy and can run the show at point guard, Southwest will have a deadly guard rotation. More consistent post play then would be the only ingredient needed for a run at the SLC title.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: San Marcos, Texas. **Home court:** Strahan Coliseum (7,200).

4. NICHOLLS STATE

Coach: Rickey Broussard (80-86, 6 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 5-21. Southland: 5-13/9th.
Key players: Earl Flowers, G, 5-11/Soph. (9.3 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 2.4 apg, 1.4 spg, 24.1 mpg); Kenderick Franklin, F, 6-6/Jr. (19.6 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 2.2 apg, 46.8 FG%, 45.2 3-pt%, 34.6 mpg); Taurus Howard, G, 6-0/Soph. (RS/medical); Keith Richard, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 83.7 FT%, 16.0 mpg).
Strengths: Kenderick Franklin is one of the most creative offensive players in the league, and he could have a great season if the Colonels have a healthy, consistent point guard.
Weaknesses: Only two players—Franklin and Keith Richard—have more than one year of Division I experience. And can this team score? Shooting touch was lacking a year ago (39.7 percent from the field as a team).
Outlook: On paper, the Colonels look like a middle-of-the-pack team, but intangibles—i.e., how will point guard Taurus Howard develop?—could provide unexpected results. If Franklin can energize the rest of the team, he could shape up as a player of the year candidate.
Last league title: 1995.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Thibodaux, La. **Home court:** Stopher Gym (3,800).

5. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN

Coach: Derek Allister (1st year).
1995-96 record: 17-11. Southland: 11-7/T4th.
Key players: Wayne Allen, F, 6-6/Jr. (JC); Edwin Gray, F, 6-8/Soph. (2.8 rpg, 9.8 mpg); Patrick Gusters, G, 6-4/Fr.; Jermaine Lyons, G, 5-9/Soph. (2.7 apg, 14.6 mpg); Keith Tate, F, 6-9/Soph. (2.1 rpg, 11.6 mpg).
Strengths: Wayne Allen, who won MVP honors in his junior college conference last year, shapes up as one of the most-feared players in the SLC. The sophomore class is short on experience but long on promise.
Weaknesses: There are holes at each position with the loss of five starters. All told, the Lumberjacks lost 86 percent of their scoring and 74 percent of their rebounding. Derek Allister is unproven as a coach.
Outlook: Allister, a longtime assistant at SFA, recruited every player on the team. His goal is to have a team lead the nation in scoring. But if he does no more than mold a young '96-97 team into a cohesive unit by season's end, he will have earned his pay raise.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Nacogdoches, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (7,203).

6. TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO

Coach: Tim Carter (14-14, 1 year; 25-30 overall, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 14-14. Southland: 12-6/T2nd.
Key players: Sheldon Jones, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 15.8 mpg); Rod Hall, G, 6-2/Jr. (JC); Derrick Jackson, F, 6-4/Jr. (JC); David Ode, C, 6-9/Jr. (JC); Brad Parscale, C, 6-8/Soph. (JC); Ricky Reed, F, 6-5/Soph. (12.6 mpg); Darren Webber, F, 6-7/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 74.1 FT%, 16.1 mpg).
Strengths: A promising group of nine newcomers brings hope to a program that has been inconsistent the past few years. When he's hot, Sheldon Jones can be one of the best players in the league.
Weaknesses: The baseline game returns nothing from last year and will rely upon inexperienced players. The Roadrunners have a bad habit of stumbling into losing streaks.
Outlook: The best story may be Rod Hall, who scored 50 points against Texas-San Antonio two years ago while playing for the Fort Hood army team. As he adjusts from playing in military tournaments to playing in Division I, he could help ease the sting of losing All-SLC swingman Marlon Anderson.
Last league title: 1992.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: San Antonio, Texas. **Home court:** UTSA Convocation Center (5,100).

7. SAM HOUSTON STATE

Coach: Jerry Hopkins (33-99, 5 years; 152-206 overall, 13 years).
1995-96 record: 11-16. Southland: 9-9/6th.
Key players: Dion Caroline, G, 6-0/Sr. (4.9 ppg, 2.4 rpg, 4.6 apg, 25.5 mpg); Mike Dillard, G, 6-6/Sr. (12.6 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.0 spg, 45.2 FG%, 92.6 FT%, 37.9 3-pt%, 28.0 mpg); Jason Yarbrough, G, 6-1/Sr. (6.1 ppg, 15.9 mpg).
Strengths: Moving out of the cellar with a sixth-place finish last year has given the Bearkats some confidence. Mike Dillard can be a deadly 3-point shooter and is great from the line.
Weaknesses: Coach Jerry Hopkins has to start over at the post, the most problematic position at Sam Houston this decade. The Bearkats also must figure out a way to inspire their student body to find the gym.
Outlook: Sam Houston has finished last in the league in three of the past five seasons. Six newcomers must contribute if Hopkins is to make last year's 9-9 conference record the start of a trend rather than a fluke.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Huntsville, Texas. **Home court:** Johnson Coliseum (6,000).

8. NORTHWESTERN STATE

Coach: J.D. Barnett (18-35, 2 years; 309-208, 18 years).
1995-96 record: 5-21. Southland: 3-15/10th.
Key players: Stephen Barnes, F, 6-8/Sr.; Ryan Bundy, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 38.1 FG%, 31.9 mpg); Gerald Hollins, G-F, 6-3/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 44.1 FG%, 22.7 mpg); Seth Legrand, C, 6-8/Jr. (5.7 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 43.0 FG%, 20.0 mpg).
Strengths: They were hard to identify last season. Coach J.D. Barnett was unable to inject much life into the Demons, who didn't win back-to-back games all season. The most optimistic hope may be that point guard Ryan Bundy will regain his freshman form.
Weaknesses: For starters, how about 40.3 percent field-goal shooting last year? And an average margin of defeat of 12.3 points in SLC games? The Demons don't appear to be much better on paper this season.
Outlook: This year could be mentally draining for everyone. Barnett, promised the A.D. job a year ago, was passed over for it in the offseason. How he deals with that disappointment could set the tone for 1996-97.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Natchitoches, La. **Home court:** Prather Coliseum (3,900).

9. TEXAS-ARLINGTON

Coach: Eddie McCarter (44-66, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 11-15. Southland: 7-11/T7th.
Key players: Reggie Brown, G, 6-0/Sr. (9.0 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 4.5 apg, 1.5 spg, 32.0 mpg); Scott Cross, G, 6-4/Jr. (4.6 ppg, 38.3 3-pt%, 14.0 mpg); Ernest Gwinn, G, 6-1/Jr. (JC); Jared Hiple, F, 6-8/Soph. (JC); Anthony Tucker, F, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: They're not easy to find. Reggie Brown is an exciting player, but he can't do it alone. A favorable early home schedule gives UTA a chance to build some confidence at the start of the season.
Weaknesses: With the departure of four senior starters and a key sixth man, the Mavericks have lost 81 percent of their scoring and 84 percent of their rebounding from a mediocre team. Three consecutive years of second-division finishes in the SLC have taken their toll on the program.
Outlook: Coach Eddie McCarter's team plays its home games on a stage inside a campus auditorium. If he can turn this group into a winner, let him have all the curtain calls he wants.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Arlington, Texas. **Home court:** Texas Hall (4,200). ◆

Carl Dubois covers the Southland Conference for the Lake Charles (La.) American Press.

MID-CONTINENT

Conference Rank: 27

By John Mutka

ALL-MID-CONTINENT TEAM

Kory Billups, F, 6-7/225, Sr., Chicago State
Marcus Culbreth, F, 6-7/225, Sr., Youngstown State
Bryce Drew, G, 6-3/180, Jr., Valparaiso
Andrell Hoard, G, 6-3/190, Sr., NE Illinois
Rasaun Young, G/F, 6-3/200, Jr., Buffalo

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Bryce Drew, G, Valparaiso.

Newcomer of the Year: Charles Parks, F, Mo.-Kansas City.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Bryce Drew, Valparaiso.
Best rebounder: Kory Billups, Chicago State.
Best playmaker: Bryce Drew, Valparaiso.
Best defender: Andrell Hoard, NE Illinois.
Best leaper: Robert Harris, Buffalo.
Best under 6 foot: Bernard Wheeler, Buffalo.
Best over 7 foot: Tony Vilcinskas, Valparaiso.
Most versatile: Jeff Black, Troy State.
Most flamboyant: Rasaun Young, Buffalo.
Best NBA prospect: Andrell Hoard, NE Illinois.

1. BUFFALO

Coach: Tim Cohane (41-42, 3 years; 185-187 overall, 14 years).
1995-96 record: 13-14. Mid-Continent: 10-8/T3rd.
Key players: Mike Martinho, G, 5-11/Jr. (17.7 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.0 spg, 41.6 3-pt%, 76.9 FT%); Robert Harris, F, 6-4/Soph. (8.1 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 1.0 apg); Bernard Wheeler, G, 5-10/Soph. (7.8 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 3.9 apg, 2.4 spg); Rasaun Young, G/F, 6-3/Jr. (RS/ankle).
Strengths: The backcourt of Mike Martinho and Rasaun Young is good. Young, the team's leading scorer and an all-league pick in 1994-95, is back after missing last season as a medical redshirt. Martinho and Bernard Wheeler made all-conference and all-newcomer teams, respectively, last year. Robert Harris is one of the league's best undersized rebounders.
Weaknesses: The Bulls, who lack a low-post scorer, must improve an offense that ranked last in the league in scoring, passing and shooting. JC signees Nathan Johnson and Scott McMillin should improve a shaky interior.
Outlook: The return of Young, who averaged 18 points and 4.9 rebounds two years ago, should provide a big lift. If 6-11 Leonard Tangishaka hits the boards harder, look for Buffalo to win the league.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Buffalo. **Home court:** Alumni Arena (8,464).

2. VALPARAISO

Coach: Homer Drew (97-130, 8 years; 366-252, overall, 20 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 21-11. Mid-Continent: 13-5/1st. Lost to Arizona in NCAA West first round.
Key players: Chris Artis, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.9 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 19.8 mpg); Bryce Drew, G, 6-3/Jr. (17.2 ppg, 5.1 apg, 2.9 rpg, 86.6 FT%, 39.8 3-pt%, 35.5 mpg); Bill Jenkins, F, 6-6/Jr. (2.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 13.5 mpg); Jamie Sykes, G, 5-11/Jr. (8.3 ppg, 3.7 apg, 2.7 rpg, 75.0 FT%, 28.8); Tony Vilcinskas, C, 7-0/Jr. (52.2 FG%, 10.3 mpg)
Strengths: The backcourt is solid. Point guard Bryce Drew knows how to run an offense and is a skilled passer, while off-guard Jamie Sykes, along with reserve Craig Brunes, is a sharpshooter. Small forwards Chris Artis and Bill Jenkins are solid performers.
Weaknesses: The departures of league MVP Anthony Allison and conference rebounding champion Chris Ensminger leave a gaping hole in the front line. Inside points will be harder to find, which means the Crusaders may rely too heavily on 3-pointers. Valpo's lack of quickness was exposed in the school's first NCAA appearance last March.
Outlook: If 7-0 center Tony Vilcinskas, 6-9 forward Cory Gibson and 6-11 JC transfer center Zoran Viskovic step up offensively and the guards prove to be dead-eye shooters, the Crusaders may win their third consecutive title.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Valparaiso, Ind. **Home court:** Athletics Recreation Center (4,500).

3. TROY STATE

Coach: Don Maestri (257-168, 15 years).
1995-96 record: 11-16. Mid-Continent: 8-10/8th.
Key players: Rhodney Donaldson, G, 6-0/Sr. (16.3 ppg, 3.5 apg, 1.4 spg, 35.4 3-pt%, 89.6 FT%, 30.6 mpg); Jermaine Ball, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.1 apg, 1.2 spg, 76.3 FT%, 34.9 3-pt%, 32.1 mpg); Jeff Black, F, 6-8/Sr. (13.2 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.8 apg, 1.7 spg, 38.0 3-pt%, 27.9 mpg).
Strengths: The run-and-gun Trojans specialize in scoring and shooting the 3-pointer. Jeff Black, one of three returning starters, may be the most versatile player in the league. Leadership, size, free-throw shooting and quickness are assets.
Weaknesses: Defense is a dirty word at Troy State, which also must break in eight newcomers. No one's going to confuse any Trojans with Dennis Rodman when it comes to board work.
Outlook: If the touted newcomers blend quickly, the Trojans, in just their fourth Division I season, may take the title before moving to the TAAC.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Troy, Ala. **Home court:** Sartain Hall (3,000).

4. YOUNGSTOWN STATE

Coach: Dan Peters (35-46, 3 years; 149-99 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Mid-Continent: 7-11/9th.
Key players: Marcus Culbreth, F, 6-7/Sr. (13.4 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 49.5 FG%, 29.4 mpg); Anthony Hunt, G, 6-0/Jr. (10.4 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.5 spg, 71.8 FT%, 28.4 mpg); Hank Raber, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.3 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.2 apg, 70.7 FT%, 22.2 mpg); David Henderson, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.8 apg, 78.6 FT%, 23.3 mpg); Matt McMurray, F, 6-5/Sr. (6.3 ppg, 4.9 rpg, 2.0 apg, 1.4 spg, 23.3 mpg).
Strengths: Youngstown returns a solid nucleus from the league's top defensive club. Marcus Culbreth paces a group of strong rebounders who should erase the memory of last year's disappointment. Three JC arrivals, including 6-9 James McVay, should bolster a solid interior. David Henderson, Hank Raber and Anthony Hunt, who made the all-newcomer team, can bury 3-pointers.
Weaknesses: Offensive shortcomings and a lack of quickness will keep the Penguins from making a serious run at the title. Depth also may be a problem.
Outlook: Youngstown must learn to shoot from the line and field, but better inside-outside balance should make the Penguins competitive.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Youngstown, Ohio. **Home court:** Beeghly Center (8,000).

5. WESTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Jim Kerwin (52-59, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 17-12. Mid-Continent: 12-6/2nd.
Key players: Janthony Joseph, F/C, 6-9 Jr. (11.1 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.9 apg); Clint Ford, F, 6-6 Sr. (10.7 ppg, 4.0 rpg, 59.5 FG%); Mark Buckingham, G, 6-4 Jr. (6.2 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 1.7 apg); Mark Gagle, F, 6-7 Sr. (5.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg); David Kutcher, G, 6-2 Sr. (3.2 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 2.6 apg).
Strengths: Janthony Joseph will emerge as one of the league's brightest stars. Last year, Clint Ford had the top field-goal percentage in the league and was named all-tournament. Guards David Kutcher and Mark Buckingham will benefit from a combined 26 starts last season.
Weaknesses: The loss of all-conference players Garrick Vicks and George Milsap, who both packed a big scoring and rebounding punch, will be difficult to overcome.
Outlook: If Tony Ackerman, a 6-5 JC signee, makes an immediate impact at the point or shooting guard, the Leathernecks could end Valparaiso's two-year reign. Ackerman led California JC players in assists and also averaged 15 points and seven rebounds. J.C. Alexander, a 6-8 freshman, and redshirt guard Ivan Gunder may keep Western from slipping.
Last league title: 1983.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Macomb, Ill. **Home court:** Western Hall (5,140).

6. NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS

Coach: Rees Johnson (73-145, 8 years; 374-281 overall, 25 years).
1995-96 record: 14-13. Mid-Continent: 10-8/T3rd.
Key players: Andrell Hoard, G, 6-3/Sr. (21.1 ppg, 2.6 apg, 3.6 spg, 33.1 mpg); William Keys, G, 6-1/Soph. (7.4 ppg, 2.6 apg, 1.5 spg, 72.9 FT%, 19.3 mpg); Mark Heidersbach, G, 6-1/Sr. (7.3 ppg, 41.7 3-pt%, 85.7 FT%, 41.7 3-pt%, 18.0 mpg).
Strengths: Andrell Hoard, a supreme dunker who leads an athletic squad, led the conference in scoring and ranked fifth nationally in steals. William Keys teams with Hoard to give the Golden Eagles a defensive-minded backcourt. Mark Heidersbach is deadly from 3-point territory.
Weaknesses: The loss of Monte O'Quinn, who was the league's No. 2 scorer and rebounder, leaves a big void. The Eagles must shoot straighter and improve a weak inside game.
Outlook: Some rebounders must emerge. Point guard Brian Bestor, who set a school record for assists, will be missed, but redshirt Brad Bestor and three JC transfers could take up the slack and make the Golden Eagles competitive.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** P.E. Complex (2,000).

7. CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

Coach: Howie Dickenman (1st year).
1995-96 record: 13-15. Mid-Continent: 9-9/T6th.
Key players: Dwhawn Edwards, G, 6-2 Sr. (11.9 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.8 spg, 75.6 FT%, 25.7 mpg); Garrett Petteway, G, 6-1 Sr. (8.0 ppg, 2.1 apg, 76.7 FT%, 22.9 mpg); Kincy Wallace, F, 6-2 Sr. (6.5 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 15.9 mpg).
Strengths: The hiring of Howie Dickenman, a long-time assistant at UConn and a former Central Connecticut All-American, stirred a wave of enthusiasm. Dwhawn Edwards is the only returning starter who averaged in double figures, but Garrett Petteway should step up. The Blue Devils hit their free throws.
Weaknesses: Challenged to improve his work ethic, super-skinny shot blocker Keith Closs responded by dropping out of the program. Rebounding will be a major concern for the guard-oriented Blue Devils.
Outlook: A .500 season would be grounds for giddiness.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: New Britain, Conn. **Home court:** Detrick Gym (4,500).

8. MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

Coach: Bob Sundvold (1st year; 82-38 overall, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. Mid-Continent: 10-8/T3rd.
Key players: Tony Berg, F, 6-9 Jr. (7.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 80.0 FT%); Charles Parks, F, 6-7/Sr. (JC); Nick Richmond, G, 6-0/Soph. (4.9 ppg, 15.6 mpg); Chaz Smith, F, 6-7 Soph. (2.5 ppg).
Strengths: The athletic Kangaroos welcome the league's top recruiting class, including JC forward Charles Parks and freshman point guard Anthony Love. Bob Sundvold enjoyed great success at Division II Central Missouri State, leading the Mules to the NCAAs three times.
Weaknesses: With nine newcomers, team chemistry will take time to develop. A leader also must emerge.
Outlook: In this year of transition and multiple new faces, the Kangaroos figure to struggle.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Kansas City. **Home court:** Municipal Auditorium (11,126).

9. CHICAGO STATE

Coach: Craig Hodges (8-45, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 2-25. Mid-Continent: 2-16/10th.
Key players: Kory Billups, F, 6-7/Sr. (16.1 ppg, 9.0 rpg, 2.3 apg, 1.4 bpg, 29.9 mpg); Terrell Ingram, G/F, 6-6/Jr. (12.0 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 2.9 apg, 76.8 FT%, 27.7 mpg); Sonny Walker, F, 6-5/Soph. (5.3 ppg, 2.0 rpg, 13.5 mpg).
Strengths: Kory Billups provides leadership and is joined by Terrell Ingram to give the Cougars some proven scorers. This athletic crew plays tough interior defense and excels at blocking shots.
Weaknesses: Chicago State needs to improve its outside shooting and perimeter defense. Billups needs help on the boards. And the Cougars are turnover-prone.
Outlook: The veterans provide hope, but a lack of recruiting success and a brutal schedule doesn't bode well for one of the nation's worst programs.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Chicago. **Home court:** Jacoby D. Dickens Center (2,500). ◆

John Mutka covers the Mid-Continent for the Gary (Ind.) Post-Tribune.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

IVY LEAGUE

Conference Rank: 28

By Mike Lurie

ALL-IVY TEAM

Steve Goodrich, C, 6-8/210, Jr., Princeton
Sydney Johnson, G, 6-3/165, Sr., Princeton
Sea Lonergan, G/F, 6-5/205, Sr., Dartmouth
Daniel Okonkwo, F, 6-4/184, Sr., Yale
Kyle Snowden, F, 6-6/230, Sr., Harvard

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Sydney Johnson, G, Princeton.

Newcomer of the Year: Nathan Walton, F/C, Princeton.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: P.J. Halas, Dartmouth.
Best rebounder: Kyle Snowden, Harvard.
Best playmaker: Sydney Johnson, Princeton.
Best defender: Sydney Johnson, Princeton.
Best leaper: Dan Okonkwo, Yale.
Best under 6-foot: Tim Hill, Harvard.
Best over 7-foot: Brian Gilpin, Dartmouth.
Most versatile: Kyle Snowden, Harvard.
Most flamboyant: Alex Compton, Cornell.
Best NBA prospect: Brian Gilpin, Dartmouth.

1. PRINCETON

Coach: Bill Carmody (1st year).
1995-96 record: 22-7. Ivy: 12-2/T1st. Lost to Mississippi State in NCAA Southeast second round.
Key players: Steve Goodrich, C, 6-8/Jr. (11.6 ppg, 3.8 rpg, 60.8 FG%, 72.4 FT%, 41.0 3-pt%, 28.3 mpg); Mitch Henderson, G, 6-2/Jr. (8.9 ppg, 1.0 spg, 25.7 mpg); Sydney Johnson, G, 6-3/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 3.0 apg, 1.2 spg, 73.8 FT%, 36.3 mpg); Gabe Lewullis, F, 6-5/Soph. (2.0 rpg, 18.0 mpg); Jamie Mastaglio, F, 6-4/Jr. (4.7 ppg, 20.0 mpg); Nathan Walton, F, 6-7/Fr.
Strengths: The Tigers lost only two seniors to graduation. And they return with confidence after postseason victories over Penn (in an Ivy League playoff game) and UCLA (in the NCAA Tournament). Sydney Johnson oozes savvy, and Mitch Henderson has fine athleticism.
Weaknesses: It's unfair to call the loss of 29-year coach Pete Carril a "weakness," not when the program is in the capable hands of longtime assistant Bill Carmody. But the end of the Carril era is something to watch.
Outlook: The Tigers will be playing for pride, wanting to carry on the Carril legacy. But they'll also want to show that it's the players who get it done. They have the poise to let Carmody carve his own niche.
Last league title: 1996.
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1992.
Site: Princeton, N.J. **Home court:** Jadwin Gym (7,500).

2. PENN

Coach: Fran Dunphy (123-65, 7 years; 1-3 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 17-10. Ivy: 12-2/T1st.
Key players: Michael Jordan, G, 6-1/Fr.; Garrett Kreitz, G, 6-1/Jr. (9.0 ppg, 1.2 spg, 40.6 3-pt%, 31.2 mpg); Jaime Lyren, G, 6-3/Jr. (RS/broken foot); Geoff Owens, C, 6-11/Fr.; Paul Romanczuk, F, 6-6/Soph. (6.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 23.2 mpg).
Strengths: The Quakers have special ingredients: athleticism, seasoning, a poised, calm coaching presence in Fran Dunphy, and what many believe is an outstanding freshmen class led by Michael Jordan.
Weaknesses: Jaime Lyren missed last year with a broken foot, a year he was supposed to get some true minutes in the backcourt with Jerome Allen and Matt Maloney gone. Lyren will be tested to come back and establish himself after the injury, but there's no question he has the skills.
Outlook: To watch Dunphy coach is to watch a master, a man who exudes calm and confidence to his players. Losing to Princeton in a one-game playoff last year is a major incentive for revenge.
Last league title: 1994.
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Philadelphia. **Home court:** The Palestra (8,700).

3. DARTMOUTH

Coach: Dave Faucher (60-70, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 16-10. Ivy: 9-5/3rd.
Key players: Brian Gilpin, C, 7-0/Sr. (11.0 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 2.3 bpg, 46.5 FG%, 74.6 FT%, 29.7 mpg); P.J. Halas, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1 spg, 86.4 FT%, 43.5 3-pt%, 29.5 mpg); Sea Lonergan, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (16.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 3.4 apg, 80.6 FT%, 35.3 mpg); Kenny Mitchell, G, 5-11/Sr. (7.2 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 4.7 apg, 2.0 spg, 45.7 FG%, 75.4 FT%, 40.5 3-pt%, 33.7 mpg).
Strengths: Sea Lonergan should remain one of the Ivy's most dominant players and give Princeton's Sydney Johnson a run for player of the year honors. Dartmouth has size and veterans and will have bonded during a two-week exhibition trip to Portugal in early September.
Weaknesses: Derailing the Princeton-Penn legacy is tough for any Ivy challenger, and the Big Green has to do it without a lot of speed. Big man Brian Gilpin needs to hit the boards harder.
Outlook: Hanover, N.H., is at the top of the Ivy's cold-weather map, but the Big Green has not been a hockey power. This nucleus of Dartmouth men playing the indoor hardwood game has the best chance of knocking Penn and Princeton out of NCAA contention.
Last league title: 1959.
Last NCAA appearance: 1959.
Site: Hanover, N.H. **Home court:** Leede Arena (2,100).

4. HARVARD

Coach: Frank Sullivan (42-88, 5 years; 156-174, 12 years).
1995-96 record: 15-11. Ivy: 7-7/4th.
Key players: David Demian, G, 6-1/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 82.9 FT%, 40.4 3-pt%, 17.9 mpg); Chris Grancio, C, 6-8/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 70.8 FT%, 34.0 3-pt%, 20.7 mpg); Tim Hill, G, 5-11/Soph. (10.1 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 5.2 apg, 1 spg, 75.8 FT%, 38.0 mpg); Mike Scott, G/F, 6-4/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 3.5 rpg, 45.2 FG%, 21.9 mpg); Kyle Snowden, F, 6-6/Sr. (15.1 ppg, 11.1 rpg, 1 spg, 54.8 FG%, 78.5 FT%, 37.2 mpg); David Weaver, G/F, 6-4/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1 spg, 77.8 FT%, 36.5 3-pt%, 19.8 mpg).
Strengths: Defense, defense, defense. It made Harvard go from 6-20 in 1994-95 to 15-11 last year. Tim Hill, a product of Morgan Wootten's famed Hyattsville (Md.) DeMatha High program, could be one of the best point guards in the league. He had a better than 2-1 assist-to-turnover ratio last year. Kyle Snowden is on his way to becoming the school's career rebounding leader.
Weaknesses: For all its tradition, Harvard hasn't won an Ivy title in men's basketball. Depth up front is a concern.
Outlook: The Crimson saw last season how big an improvement it could make from one year to the next. The backcourt will have to take pressure off the young players underneath the basket for that trend to continue.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1946.
Site: Cambridge, Mass. **Home court:** Lavietes Pavilion (2,195).

5. YALE

Coach: Dick Kuchen (125-137, 10 years; 208-249 overall, 17 years).
1995-96 record: 8-18. Ivy: 3-11/T7th.
Key players: Clay Alliston, F/C, 6-7/Fr.; Gabe Hunterton, G, 6-1/Jr. (8.5 ppg, 3.0 apg, 83.3 FT%, 35.2 3-pt%, 27.2 mpg); Teddy Miller, F, 6-3/Soph. (5.2 ppg, 19.0 mpg); Daniel Okonkwo, F, 6-4/Sr. (10.6 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 1.9 spg, 45.5 FG%, 73.0 FT%, 31.4 mpg); Charlie Petit, G, 6-0/Soph. (4.4 ppg, 12.1 mpg); Matt Ricketts, G, 6-2/Jr. (7.8 ppg, 78.4 FT%, 40.8 3-pt%, 22.9 mpg); Emerson Whitley, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 83.0 FT%, 39.4 3-pt%, 17.8 mpg).
Strengths: Daniel Okonkwo is a terrific athlete, and there's no reason Gabe Hunterton can't return to the form he showed two years ago, when he was the league's rookie of the year (12.9 ppg). Coach Dick Kuchen extracts a lot from his talent, and his team surprised Penn last year with an upset that helped cost the Quakers a repeat title.
Weaknesses: No Yale player finished among the league's top 10 in scoring last year. The team also lacks a true point guard. And though they play tenacious defense in a wonderful home basketball setting, the huge state focus on UConn overshadows the Elis even in New Haven.
Outlook: This is a tricky bunch to handicap. The Elis have gotten some brilliant play in recent years from players who didn't appear to be all that athletic. The current group has some of Yale's best all-around athletes, and the sophomore class gained valuable minutes at the start of last season.
Last league title: 1962.
Last NCAA appearance: 1962.
Site: New Haven, Conn. **Home court:** John J. Lee Amphitheater (3,100).

6. BROWN

Coach: Frank Dobbs (53-77, 5 years).
1995-96 record: 10-16. Ivy: 5-9/T5th.
Key players: Joe Bucci, G, 6-0/Fr.; Aaron Butler, G, 6-3/Soph. (8.8 ppg, 46.7 FG%, 74.1 FT%, 35.9 3-pt%, 24.6 mpg); Oggie Kapetanovic, C, 6-9/Fr.; Paul Krasinski, C, 6-8/Jr. (5.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 17.1 mpg); Chris White, F, 6-6/Sr. (3.4 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 21.7 mpg).
Strengths: Chris White emerged as a developing inside presence last year for a team that reflects the style of its upbeat, up-tempo coach. Frank Dobbs went to the final eight as a player twice for Villanova in the 1980s and helped turn around Dartmouth's program as an assistant coach.
Weaknesses: Last year the Bears returned four starters, and now they must move on without the senior backcourt of Eric Blackison and All-Ivy second-teamer Brian Lloyd. Aaron Butler should step in, but Blackison and Lloyd are tough losses to overcome, especially for a team that finished next-to-last in scoring defense.
Outlook: Butler has impressive poise for a sophomore. As a program, Brown can be an enigma: The Bears haven't yet developed consistency in the frontcourt to move closer to the top.
Last league title: 1986.
Last NCAA appearance: 1986.
Site: Providence, R.I. **Home court:** Pittitola Memorial Sports Arena (2,800).

7. COLUMBIA

Coach: Armond Hill (7-19, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 7-19. Ivy: 3-11/T7th.
Key players: Matt Fuchs, G, 6-4/Sr. (14.4 mpg); Pat Hernandez, F, 6-4/Soph. (4.8 ppg,15.2 mpg); Justin Namolik, F, 6-6/Soph. (9.2 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 47.7 FG%, 39.5 3-pt%, 31.1 mpg); Gary Raimondo, G, 6-2/Soph. (9.9 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 2.0 spg, 31.4 mpg); C.J. Thompkins, G, 6-2/Sr. (14.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 2.8 apg, 1.5 spg, 74.3 FT%, 37.6 3-pt%, 35.3 mpg).
Strengths: The backcourt is strong with C.J. Thompkins, the league's top returning scorer in Ivy League play. Gary Raimondo and Thompkins could be similar to the Jerome Allen/Matt Maloney combo at Penn a few years back.
Weaknesses: The Lions lost a lot of size with the graduations of center Jim Tubridy and forward Boris Piskun. There also isn't much depth.
Outlook: The Lions' most experienced players must play well. The incoming freshman class will not be ranked among Columbia's strongest.
Last league title: 1968.
Last NCAA appearance: 1968.
Site: New York. **Home court:** Levien Gym (3,400).

8. CORNELL

Coach: Scott Thompson (1st year; 170-228 overall, 9 years).
1995-96 record: 10-16. Ivy: 5-9/T5th.
Key players: Keirian Brown, F, 6-7/Fr.; Bo Buettenback, F, 6-5/Jr. (6.7 ppg, 4.4 rpg, 24.9 mpg); Alex Compton, G, 5-11/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.7 apg, 1.0 spg, 86.7 FT%, 36.3 3-pt%, 24.9 mpg); DeShawn Standard, F, 5-11/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.6 spg, 46.2 FG%, 23.1 mpg); Dan Wendt, F, 6-6/Jr. (6.5 ppg, 4.2 rpg, 39.6 3-pt%, 25.0 mpg).
Strengths: DeShawn Standard and Trent Hickes bring experience to the backcourt. Alex Compton, a transfer from St. Joseph's (Pa.), was a dynamic player in league play last year.
Weaknesses: Too many to mention. Center is a big question mark, and overall Cornell is a relatively small team. Two pivotal players—forward Eddie Samuel and guard Brandt Schuckman—must be replaced.
Outlook: Not good. Improving play on the road was a big goal last season, and it didn't quite happen (the Big Red finished 3-10 away from frigid Ithaca). This program also lacks a winning tradition.
Last league title: 1988.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Ithaca, N.Y. **Home court:** Newman Arena (4,750). ◆

Mike Lurie covers Ivy League sports for the New Haven (Conn.) Register.

PATRIOT

Conference Rank: 29

By Michael Bradley

ALL-PATRIOT TEAM

Stefan Ciosici, C, 6-11/250, Soph., Lafayette
Adonal Foyle, C, 6-10/255, Jr., Colgate
Chris Rojik, F, 6-6/220, Sr., Holy Cross
Seth Schaeffer, G, 6-3/205, Jr., Colgate
Brian Walker, G, 5-8/165, Sr., Navy

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Adonal Foyle, C, Colgate.

Newcomer of the Year: Darrin Scott, G, Colgate.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Seth Schaeffer, Colgate.
Best rebounder: Adonal Foyle, Colgate.
Best playmaker: Brian Walker, Navy.
Best defender: Adonal Foyle, Colgate.
Best leaper: George Tatum, Army.
Best under 6 foot: Brian Walker, Navy.
Best over 7 foot: None.
Most versatile: Chris Rojik, Holy Cross.
Most flamboyant: George Tatum, Army.
Best NBA prospect: Adonal Foyle, Colgate.

1. COLGATE

Coach: Jack Bruen (94-108, 7 years; 204-180 overall, 14 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-15. Patriot: 9-3/T1st. Lost to Connecticut in NCAA Southeast first round.
Key players: Tim Bollin, F, 6-9/Sr. (6.6 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 1.0 spg, 48.7 FG%, 77.4 FT%, 22.7 mpg); Adonal Foyle, C, 6-10/Jr. (20.2 ppg, 12.6 rpg, 5.7 bpg, 51.7 FG%, 36.6 mpg); Seth Schaeffer, G, 6-3/Jr. (13.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 82.3 FT%, 40.4 3-pt%, 29.1 mpg); Darrin Scott, G, 6-1/Fr.; Ben Wandtke, F, 6-6/Soph.; Chad Wiswall, F/G, 6-5/Soph.
Strengths: Adonal Foyle is clearly the best player in the league, and it isn't even close. He dominates at both ends of the court and could score 30 a game if he wanted. Seth Schaeffer is perhaps the league's best shooter, and Tim Bollin is a solid inside complement to Foyle.
Weaknesses: Despite Foyle's presence, the Red Raiders are still a little light on the backboards. And the point guard situation must be addressed now that Jimmy Maloney is gone. Freshman Darrin Scott needs to take over and get the ball inside.
Outlook: The Red Raiders are prohibitive league favorites, and it would be a huge upset if they were dethroned. Foyle is just too much.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1994.
Site: Hamilton, N.Y. **Home court:** Cotterett Court (3,100).

2. NAVY

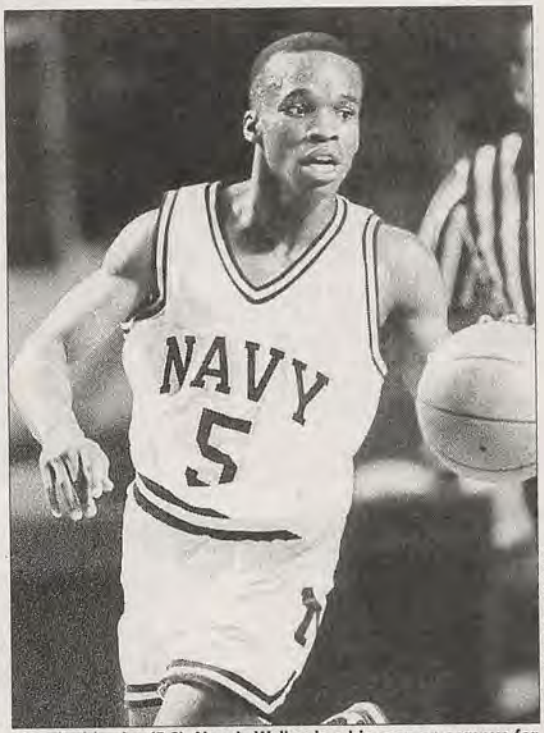
Coach: Don DeVoe (60-53, 4 years; 388-281 overall, 23 years; 5-8 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 15-12. Patriot: 9-3/T1st.
Key players: Hassan Booker, F, 6/3/Jr.; Michael Green, F, 6-5/Sr. (3.4 rpg, 1.0 spg, 23.4 mpg); Michael Heary, G, 6-5/Jr. (11.0 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 35.3 3-pt%, 21.4 mpg); Josh Height, F, 6-9/Jr.; Seth Schuknecht, F, 6-6/Soph. (7.6 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 75.9 FT%, 19.7 mpg); Brian Walker, G, 5-8/Sr. (6.5 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 4.6 apg, 1.9 spg, 30.7 mpg).
Strengths: The Midshipmen may not be the most lethal offensive outfit in the league, but they are the best defenders and rebounders. Brian Walker is a superb ballhandler and tenacious defender, and Michael Heary is dangerous from the outside.
Weaknesses: Navy shot only 40.7 percent from the field last year, 31.9 percent from 3-point range and 63.1 percent from the line. If the Middies fall behind early, they could be in big trouble. And even though 6-11 Josh Williams and 6-9 Josh Height patrol the middle, neither is particularly imposing.
Outlook: Never count out a Don DeVoe-coached team in a single-elimination format. The Middies will win more than they lose thanks to defense and will not be a welcome opponent in the Patriot tourney.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1994.
Site: Annapolis, Md. **Home court:** Alumni Hall (5,710).

3. BUCKNELL

Coach: Pat Flannery (30-25, 2 years; 125-69 overall, 7 years).
1995-96 record: 17-11. Patriot: 8-4/T3rd.
Key players: J.R. Holden, G, 6-1/Jr. (7.4 ppg, 2.0 rpg); Gordon Mboya, G/F, 6-5/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 34.7 3-pt%); Tom Welch, C, 6-8/Sr. (4.6 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 72.6 FT%).
Strengths: The Bison led the league in field-goal-percentage defense last year and better hope for an encore, as they could be searching for some offensive pop for a month or two. J.R. Holden is fairly accurate from the outside, while Tom Welch is a stout interior defender.
Weaknesses: With the loss of all five starters, Bucknell needs to replace well over half of its offense and a good chunk of its rebounding.
Outlook: The Bison won't collapse completely, but last year's reserves and a pretty good recruiting class must contribute immediately or Bucknell will slip into the second division.
Last league title: 1995 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1989.
Site: Lewisburg, Pa. **Home court:** Davis Gym (2,300).

4. LAFAYETTE

Coach: Fran O'Hanlon (7-20, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 7-20. Patriot: 4-8/5th.



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

Despite his size (5-8), Navy's Walker is a big man on campus for the Midshipmen because of his ballhandling and quickness.

Key players: Stefan Ciosici, C, 6-11/Soph. (11.4 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 50.4 FG%, 22.6 mpg); Ted Cole, F, 6-7/Soph. (8.0 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 48.2 FG%, 22.6 mpg); Dave Klaus, F, 6-7/Soph.; Dennis Ofori, G, 6-3/Jr.
Strengths: Stefan Ciosici was last year's clear freshman of the year and has the potential to be a dominating force in the league. Ted Cole is a reliable inside scorer who needs to improve his rebounding.
Weaknesses: The Leopards will rely on rookies in the backcourt—although freshman Brian Ehlers is a keeper—and must improve their field-goal shooting, which was an anemic 40.6 percent last season.
Outlook: Give Fran O'Hanlon another year or two, and the Leopards will be fighting for the Patriot's top spot. He continues to turn over the roster, and his team should be trouble for rivals come February.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1957.
Site: Easton, Pa. **Home court:** Allan P. Kirby Field House (3,500).

5. HOLY CROSS

Coach: Bill Raynor (31-25, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 16-13. Patriot: 8-4/T3rd.
Key players: Keith Driscoll, C, 6-8/Sr. (3.5 rpg, 13.1 mpg); Damion Ezell, G, 6-2/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 12.2 mpg); John Kerr, F, 6-7/Jr.; Chris Rojik, F, 6-6/Sr. (13.6 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 2.2 apg, 51.6 FG%, 40.7 3-pt%, 28.6 mpg); James Stowers, G, 6-5/Fr.
Strengths: Chris Rojik is a solid inside scorer and rebounder who should become one of the top players in the league. Damion Ezell has the potential to be a solid outside shooter.
Weaknesses: Where do we start? Walter Brown's decision to transfer to Boston University devastated the offense and will hurt plenty on the backboards. The Cross will struggle to score and is particularly deficient at point guard, where a pair of 120-plus assist men have graduated.
Outlook: With Brown, the Crusaders might have reached second. Without him, they'll be paddling madly to escape the basement.
Last league title: 1994 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Worcester, Mass. **Home court:** Hart Center (3,600).

6. ARMY

Coach: Dino Gaudio (26-56, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 7-20. Patriot: 2-10/T6th.
Key players: Christian Glowe, F/C, 6-7/Sr.; Justin Johnson, F, 6-7/Jr. (4.9 ppg, 2.7 rpg, 14.6 mpg); Mike Rainey, F, 6-5/Sr. (2.6 rpg, 46.7 FG%, 72.1 FT%, 11.8 mpg); George Tatum, G/F, 6-2/Soph. (10.3 ppg, 6.2 rpg, 28.6 mpg); Jamie Uptgraft, G, 5-10/Jr. (5.4 ppg, 2.8 apg, 35.0 3-pt%, 23.8 mpg); Jason Wands, F, 6-4/Sr. (8.2 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 30.9 mpg).
Strengths: George Tatum and Jason Wands are murder on the offensive boards despite their lack of height. Christian Glowe returns from a freak practice injury to cement the middle, and Jamie Uptgraft is a solid distributor and good long-range shooter.
Weaknesses: The Cadets are not a good shooting team, as last year's awful 39.6 percent field-goal performance proves. And they don't pay too much attention to defense, odd for a service academy.
Outlook: Army has one of its better inside teams in a while and could be improved offensively, particularly if senior Alex Morris returns from knee surgery. Still, the second division beckons.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: West Point, N.Y. **Home court:** Christl Arena (5,043)

7. LEHIGH

Coach: Sal Mentesana (1st year; 135-115 overall, 9 years).
1995-96 record: 4-23. Patriot: 2-10/T6th.
Key players: Brett Eppehimer, G, 6-0/Soph. (11.3 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 2.7 apg, 83.5 FT%, 33.9 3-pt%, 29.6 mpg); Misha Sidorov, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (12.4 mpg); Sean Tuohey, G, 6-3/Soph. (5.5 ppg, 2.1 apg, 1.0 spg, 21.5 mpg).
Strengths: When hot, Brett Eppehimer can be a great long-range weapon. He's not that bad feeding his teammates, either. Backcourt mate Sean Tuohey has 3-point potential, too.
Weaknesses: Too many to name here. Four starters are gone. The Engineers have no proven inside scoring weapon, play dreadful defense and got hammered on the boards last season. They don't pass well, and their free-throw shooting could use a big upgrade.
Outlook: Lehigh will go to an up-tempo, full-court press, and its defense should improve under first-year coach Sal Mentesana, who was a Lehigh assistant under current Orlando Magic coach Brian Hill from 1980-83.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: 1988.
Site: Bethlehem, Pa. **Home court:** Stabler Arena (5,600). ◆

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100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

MEAC

Conference Rank: 30

By Neil White

ALL-MEAC TEAM

Roderick Blakney, G, 5-10/170, Jr., South Carolina St.
Jerome James, C, 7-1/285, Jr., Florida A&M
Terquin Mott, F/C, 6-8/220, Sr., Coppin State
Jabari Outtz, G, 5-11/180, Soph., Howard
Reggie Welch, F/G, 6-6/220, Sr., Coppin State

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Terquin Mott, F/C, Coppin State.

Newcomer of the Year: Tremaine Byrd, G, Morgan State.

HONOR ROLL

Best shooter: Terquin Mott, Coppin State.
Best rebounder: Chris Nurse, Delaware State.
Best playmaker: Jabari Outtz, Howard.
Best defender: Jerome James, Florida A&M.
Best leaper: Antoine Brockington, Coppin State.
Best under 6 foot: Roderick Blakney, South Carolina St.
Best over 7 foot: Jerome James, Florida A&M.
Most versatile: Marcus Williams, North Carolina A&T.
Most flamboyant: Reggie Welch, Coppin State.
Best NBA prospect: Terquin Mott, Coppin State.

1. COPPIN STATE

Coach: Ron "Fang" Mitchell (183-111, 10 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 19-10. MEAC: 14-2/T1st.
Key players: Antoine Brockington, G, 6-2/Jr. (12.0 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 1.8 spg, 78.8 FT%, 36.4 3-pt%, 24.8 mpg); Terquin Mott, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (19.0 ppg, 7.4 rpg, 63.8 FG%, 1.0 bpg, 28.5 mpg); Jerel Seamon, G, 6-3/Soph. (14.4 mpg); Reggie Welch, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (16.8 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 2.4 apg, 51.5 FG%, 75.0 FT%, 30.2 mpg).
Strengths: Terquin Mott—the MEAC MVP who declared for the NBA draft, then reconsidered—Reggie Welch and Antoine Brockington lead a deep and athletic squad. Forget about winning on Coppin's home court, where the Eagles have a national-best 41-game unbeaten streak.
Weaknesses: A point guard needs to emerge and Coppin State needs to improve its rebounding. In addition, the Eagles have to play better defense in big games than they did last season.
Outlook: With South Carolina State slipping back this season, the Eagles, who have won or shared six of the past seven MEAC regular-season titles, are the unquestioned favorites. Look for them to be playing in March.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1993.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Coppin Center (3,000).

2. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

Coach: Cy Alexander (150-111, 9 years; 0-2 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 22-8. MEAC: 14-2/T1st. Lost to Kansas in NCAA West first round.
Key players: Roderick Blakney, G, 5-10/Jr. (14.7 ppg, 4.6 rpg, 3.3 apg, 1.9 spg, 77.4 FT%, 34.4 3-pt%, 35 mpg); Cliff Green, F, 6-6/Sr. (RS); Desi McQueen, C, 6-8/Sr. (RS/academics); Aric Samuel, G, 6-3/Sr. (RS/academics).
Strengths: Roderick Blakney, a.k.a. "Moo Moo," can defend and fill it up, and he'll get lots of chances to shoot it with All-MEAC pick Derrick Patterson gone. Blakney will team with Aric Samuel to give the Bulldogs the MEAC's top guard duo.
Weaknesses: Depth could be a problem, especially if a trio of players who redshirted last season don't deliver. A shaky frontcourt is counting heavily on former standout Desi McQueen, who missed last season in the wake of an academic scandal that led to his suspension.
Outlook: Blakney, a former Mr. Basketball in South Carolina who was the MEAC's top newcomer last season, makes the Bulldogs the best of the rest.
Last league title: 1996 (tie).
Last time didn't make NCAA field: 1995.
Site: Orangeburg, S.C. **Home court:** SHM Center (3,200).

3. NORTH CAROLINA A&T

Coach: Roy Thomas (25-32, 2 years; 267-170 overall, 12 years; 0-1 NCAA Tournament record).
1995-96 record: 10-17. MEAC: 7-9/5th.
Key players: Tarik Beasley, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (11.1 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 82.4 FT%, 38.1 3-pt%, 26.4 mpg); Jamel Grey, G, 6-1/Jr. (10.9 ppg, 2.1 apg, 79.7 FT%, 32.6 3-pt%, 23.0 mpg); Kimani Stewart, F, 6-5/Sr. (11.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 50.4 FG%, 23.0 mpg); Marcus Williams, F, 6-4/Sr. (7.9 ppg, 3.4 rpg, 4.0 apg, 26.9 mpg).
Strengths: The Aggies return a solid nucleus. Depth and rebounding should be assets. The returning starting foursome, along with all-rookie teamer Maurice Chambers, will match up with any MEAC club. Tarik Beasley is the league's best 3-point shooter.
Weaknesses: Lacking a good player in the middle, smallish A&T could have matchup problems.
Outlook: There's no reason this team shouldn't make some noise. Last season, it took time for the transfers and newcomers to mesh; a year's experience will remedy that.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1995.
Site: Greensboro, N.C. **Home court:** Ellis F. Corbett Sports Center (7,600).

4. DELAWARE STATE

Coach: Art Perry (1st year).
1995-96 record: 11-17. MEAC: 8-8/T3rd.
Key players: Terrance Hood, G, 6-4/Soph. (12.3 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 78.6 FT%, 35.6 3-pt%, 31.2 mpg); Chris Nurse, C, 6-9/Sr. (10.5 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 53.7 FG%, 29.0 mpg); Brian Parker, F, 6-6/Jr. (15.0 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 33.9 mpg); Javan Steadham, G, 5-7/Jr. (8.1 ppg, 2.1 apg, 82.8 FT%, 21.7 mpg).
Strengths: The Hornets should have a nice frontcourt, especially if Chris Nurse comes to play every night. Brian Parker, Terrance Hood and key reserve Dana McCullough made important contributions as newcomers last season and should continue to improve.
Weaknesses: Outside shooting and depth are concerns, and Delaware State lacks quickness. Art Perry, a former Maryland assistant, must get up to speed quickly after being hired in late summer.
Outlook: The Hornets won't win it all, but this veteran bunch will cause problems for MEAC foes.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Dover, Del. **Home court:** Memorial Hall (3,000).

5. MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE

Coach: Lonnie Williams (1st year; 151-123 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 10-15. MEAC: 6-10/T6th.
Key players: Lawrence Garrison, C, 6-7/Sr. (6.4 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 50.0 FG%, 18.6 mpg); Crythen Langhorne, G, 6-4/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 17.9 mpg); William Wright, F, 6-4/Sr. (8.5 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.4 spg, 22.1 mpg); John Woods, F, 6-6/Jr. (9.9 ppg, 6.7 rpg, 24.3 mpg).
Strengths: Look for the quick and athletic Hawks to be aggressive, especially on the boards and defense. John Woods and Crythen Langhorne form a solid duo, and the supporting cast should be stronger with the addition of Marshall transfer Mark Peters, a 6-8 center.
Weaknesses: The Hawks lack experience. Filling the hole left by top-flight guard Aaron McKinney won't be easy; freshman Donte Smith must step in.
Outlook: If there's a team that can sneak to the top of the pack, it's this one.
Last league title: 1974 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Princess Anne, Md. **Home court:** Tawes Gym (1,500).

6. BETHUNE-COOKMAN

Coach: Tony Sheals (28-43, 3 years; 69-76 overall, 10 years).
1995-96 record: 12-15. MEAC: 8-8/T3rd.
Key players: Reggie Bellamy, F, 6-6/Sr. (8.7 ppg, 6.4 rpg, 1.6 spg, 13.6 mpg); Mario Miller, G, 6-0/Sr. (12.8 ppg, 2.2 rpg, 2.0 apg, 34.8 3-pt%, 11.7 mpg); Lonnie Mincey, F, 6-5/Soph. (6.5 ppg, 1.9 rpg, 79.2 FT%, 34.5 3-pt%).
Strengths: Bethune-Cookman has some talent, and Tony Sheals has shown he knows how to coach. The Wildcats, who have six seniors, played very well at home last season, posting a 9-2 mark. Keep an eye on Reggie Bellamy, who may be one of the MEAC's best.
Weaknesses: A lack of size undermines Bethune's board work. Someone must tell the Wildcats, who lack depth, how to win on the road, where they were 2-12 last season.
Outlook: This team can be pesky, but it isn't likely to make a run at the top.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Daytona Beach, Fla. **Home court:** Moore Gym (3,000).

7. MORGAN STATE

Coach: Chris Fuller (7-20,1 year).
1995-96 record: 7-20. MEAC: 6-10/T6th.
Key players: Scott Deas, F, 6-5/Sr. (9.6 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 70.5 FT%, 19.9 mpg); Jerard Rucker, G, 6-3/Jr. (6.0 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 2.3 apg, 25.2 mpg); Chris Watson, F/C, 6-5/Sr. (8.8 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 1.6 spg, 30.4 mpg).
Strengths: The backcourt should be strong, thanks to the arrival of touted JC transfer Lorenzo Hutchinson and Boston University transfer Tremaine Byrd. Scott Deas and Jerard Rucker should provide the leadership to keep the Bears improving. Look for Chris Watson to make great strides.
Weaknesses: The Bears aren't big, but Watson is a battler in the paint. The team must gel to make any noise and will be tested by a difficult December slate.
Outlook: Morgan State is another MEAC team capable of playing its way up in the standings, thanks to great balance throughout the conference.
Last league title: 1976 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1974.
Site: Baltimore. **Home court:** Hill Field House (6,500).

8. HOWARD

Coach: Mike McLeese (16-38, 2 years).
1995-96 record: 7-20. MEAC: 6-10/T6th.
Key players: Lionel Allen, C, 6-9/Soph.; Eric Dedmon, G, 6-2/Sr. (10.2 ppg, 2.6 rpg, 1.0 apg); Jabari Outtz, G, 5-11/Soph. (17.7 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 3.9 apg); Melvin Watson, G, 6-5/Soph. (10.4 ppg, 4.5 rpg).
Strengths: The Bison have one of the league's emerging talents in Jabari Outtz, who has the ability to make this team dangerous. Also, keep an eye on Melvin Watson. Howard's size could cause matchup problems for opponents.
Weaknesses: Howard will be young again, which makes it tough to consistently win close games against good teams.
Outlook: Mike McLeese is building a foundation similar to the one he laid at Dunbar High in Washington, D.C., before his arrival at Howard. But it will take time.
Last league title: 1992 (tie).
Last NCAA appearance: 1992.
Site: Washington, D.C. **Home court:** Burr Gym (2,700).

9. FLORIDA A&M

Coach: Mickey Clayton (2-6, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 8-19. MEAC: 3-13/9th.
Key players: Sean Black, F/G, 6-6/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 2.2 apg, 78.0 FT%, 32.5 3-pt%, 30.5 mpg); Jerome James, C, 7-1/Jr. (11.9 ppg, 8.1 rpg, 4.4 bpg, 25.4 mpg); Olatunda Martin, F/C, 6-8/Jr. (6.4 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 1.0 bpg, 23.1 mpg); Rod Seay, F/G, 6-5/Jr. (7.1 ppg, 3.0 rpg, 72.2 FT%, 20.5 mpg).
Strengths: The Rattlers are big, and their biggest man on campus is Jerome James, who blocked a school-record 119 shots last season. Mickey Clayton, who used to coach the Lady Rattlers, will be assisted by his father, Mack.
Weaknesses: The three best backcourt players left for a variety of reasons, which might open a spot for Travis Grant III, whose father was an All-American at Kentucky State who finished as the all-time leading scorer in Division II. The newcomers must mesh quickly and shoot well to free James under the hoop.
Outlook: If the backcourt takes some pressure off the frontcourt and everyone contributes, FAMU could bite some clubs.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Tallahassee, Fla. **Home court:** Jake Gaither Athletic Center (3,365).

10. HAMPTON

Coach: Byron Samuels (9-17, 1 year).
1995-96 record: 9-17.
Key players: Al Bell, G/F, 6-3/Sr. (15.2 ppg, 6.0 rpg, 3.0 apg, 33.2 mpg); Torrey Farrington, G, 5-10/Soph. (4.1 ppg, 71.8 FT%, 15.0 mpg); Mario Hyman, F/C, 6-8/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 5.3 rpg, 73.1 FT%, 25.0 mpg); Marcus Jenkins, F, 6-5/Sr. (4.8 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 52.9 FG%, 17.9 mpg).
Strengths: Al Bell and Torrey Farrington make a good backcourt, and they'll have to play well to keep the Pirates afloat in their first season of full-fledged MEAC membership.
Weaknesses: The MEAC's youngest team is likely to struggle, especially as it faces Division I competition on a nightly basis for the first time. The new arrivals have to help immediately.
Outlook: This program, in its second Division I season, appears to be a couple of years away from being able to compete regularly with the top teams in the league, but Byron Samuels seems to have his youngsters pointed in the right direction.
Last league title: None.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Hampton, Va. **Home court:** Hampton University Convocation Center (7,200). ◆

Neil White covers college sports for The State in Columbia, S.C.

INDEPENDENTS

ORAL ROBERTS

Coach: Bill Self (34-47, 3 years).
1995-96 record: 18-9.
Key players: Clifford Crenshaw, F, 6-4/Sr. (12.3 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 2.6 apg, 1.3 spg, 48.8 FG%, 37.1 3-pt%, 30.4 mpg); Tim Gill, G, 6-2/Jr. (17.5 ppg, 3.1 rpg, 3.1 apg, 1.7 spg, 47.6 FG%, 85.3 FT%, 45.1 3-pt%, 33.9 mpg); Earl McClellan, G, 6-0/Sr. (6.7 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.4 apg, 2.3 spg, 35.7 3-pt%, 32.7 mpg); Blake Moses, C, 6-9/Soph. (8.7 ppg, 3.9 rpg, 54.5 FG%, 21.7 mpg); Kevin Scruggs, F, 6-7/Sr. (9.2 ppg, 4.7 rpg, 1.2 bpg, 55.2 FG%, 17.3 mpg); Rocky Walls, F, 6-7/Jr. (10.1 ppg, 7.6 rpg, 1.7 spg, 54.6 FG%, 25.6 mpg).
Strengths: All five starters return, including a solid backcourt of Tim Gill and Earl McClellan. Gill and McClellan are excellent long-range shooters. ORU also is a sweet-shooting team: The Titans shot 49.1 percent from the field last season.
Weaknesses: Despite outrebounding foes by almost three a game last season, the Titans aren't all that big inside. Blake Moses (245) is the only Titan weighing more than 230.
Outlook: It's pretty good for a team in only its fourth season in Division I. There are some tough games sprinkled throughout the schedule (Arkansas and Oklahoma State come calling this season), but the Titans again should approach 18 victories. Still, it's doubtful the NIT will come calling.
Last league title: N/A.
Last NCAA appearance: 1984.
Site: Tulsa, Okla. **Home court:** Mabee Center (10,575).

SOUTHERN UTAH

Coach: Bill Evans (68-50, 4 years).
1995-96 record: 15-13.
Key players: Brad Bodily, F, 6-5/Sr. (4.7 ppg, 4.3 rpg, 47.3 FG%, 23.6 mpg); Jason Essex, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC); Don Faux, C, 6-8/Sr. (8.9 ppg, 7.5 rpg, 54.1 FG%, 26.3 mpg); Andy Newman, G, 6-0/Jr. (JC); Everett Ratleff, G, 6-4/Jr. (JC).
Strengths: Coach Bill Evans likes to play an up-tempo game and a solid group of JC recruits should enable him to do so. Don Faux is a solid post player and should team with Brad Bodily to give the Thunderbirds some bulk underneath.
Weaknesses: The Thunderbirds took a ton of 3-point shots last season, but most of their firepower is gone. Bodily is the only returning starter. The JC transfers have to come through on offense.
Outlook: The new players won't have much time to get acquainted—the Thunderbirds meet Utah, UNLV and Arkansas before the first of the year. The rest of the schedule isn't that kind, either, with road dates at Saint Louis and Tulsa.
Last league title: N/A.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Cedar City, Utah. **Home court:** Centrum (5,300).

WOFFORD

Coach: Richard Johnson (172-126, 11 years).
1995-96 record: 4-22.
Key players: Chris Arp, C, 6-8/Sr. (5.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg, 46.3 FG%, 18.1 mpg); Jay Bailey, F, 6-5/Sr. (7.4 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 28.2 mpg); Seth Chadwick, G, 6-4/Sr. (10.8 ppg, 2.9 rpg, 29.3 mpg); Reggie DeGray, F, 6-5/Fr.; Rashane DeLoach, C, 6-7/Fr.; Terrence Gilyard, F, 6-4/Sr. (15.8 ppg, 6.6 rpg, 1.2 spg, 51.3 FG%, 77.1 FT%, 35.8 mpg); Rockey Hughey, G, 6-3/Fr.; Latron Jackson, G, 6-2/Fr.; Natter Miller, G, 6-5/Jr. (11.3 ppg, 36.3 3-pt%, 21.2 mpg); Starzee Walker, G, 6-3/Fr.
Strengths: All five starters are back—but that might not be too good, as the Terriers were awful offensively last season (33.9 percent from the field, just 64.8 points per game) in their first year in Division I. Terrence Gilyard is a talented—albeit small—forward.
Weaknesses: The Terriers are extremely small, with only three players taller than 6-5 and none taller than 6-8. Wofford was pounded on the boards last season; expect that to continue.
Outlook: An easier schedule should help the Terriers in their second season of Division I. Coach Richard Johnson expects this season to be another learning experience for his young team. Wofford joins the Southern Conference next season.
Last league title: N/A.
Last NCAA appearance: None.
Site: Spartanburg, S.C. **Home court:** Benjamin Johnson Arena (3,500). ◆

JUNIOR COLLEGE LIST

By Rick Ball, Ballstars J.C. Camps

MOVING ON

Where last year's top junior college players signed:

POINT GUARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1. Brandun Hughes	6-0	Michigan	Barton County (Kan.) CC
2. DaShay Jones	6-2	Tennessee	Vincennes (Ind.) University
3. Kerry Thompson	6-0	Florida State	Tallahassee (Fla.) CC
4. Marcus Saxon	6-1	Utah State	Chipola JC (Fla.)*
5. Demond Lyles	5-11	Memphis	Vincennes (Ind.) University
6. Antoine Hubbard	5-10	New Mexico St.	Jones County (Miss.) JC

OFF-GUARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1. D'Juan Baker	6-5	Cincinnati	Midland College (Tex.)
2. Tyron Lee	6-5	Missouri	Wabash Valley College (Ill.)
3. Malcolm Johnson	6-4	Texas Christian	Seminole (Okla.) JC
4. Michael Spruell	6-2	Auburn	Okaloosa-Walton CC (Fla.)
5. Monquencio Hardnett	6-4	Connecticut	Mid. Georgia Coll.
6. Anthony Carter	6-1	Hawaii	Saddleback CC (Calif.)

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1. Horatio Webster	6-7	Mississippi St.	Connors State College (Okla.)
2. Rashad Tucker	6-7	Southern Illinois	Southeastern CC (Iowa)
3. Melvin Drake	6-6	Va. Commonwealth	Okaloosa-Walton CC (Fla.)
4. Gerald Zimmerman	6-6	San Francisco	Ventura (Calif.) College
5. Bennett Davison	6-8	Arizona	West Valley College (Calif.)
6. Chatney Howard	6-4	James Madison	Allegany CC (Md.)

POWER FORWARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1. Ruben Patterson	6-7	Cincinnati	Independance (Kan.) CC
2. Tyrone Nesby	6-8	UNLV	Vincennes (Ind.) University
3. Louis Richardson	6-8	New Mexico State	Jones County (Miss.) JC
4. Demetrius Alexander	6-8	Alabama	Hutchinson (Kan.) CC
5. Doug Beatty	6-8	Georgia Southern	New Mexico JC
6. Devin Baker	6-6	Georgia	Hagerstown (Md.) CC

CENTERS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Four-year school	Junior college
1. Keon Clark	6-11	UNLV	Dixie College (Utah)
2. Lorenzo Hall	6-9	Georgia	Frank Phillips College (Texas)
3. Brian Lewin	6-10	West Virginia	Trinity Valley CC (Texas)
4. Dujuan Wiley	6-9	Michigan State	Wabash Valley College (Ill.)
5. Ed Jenkins	6-9	Ohio State	Sullivan College (Ky.)
6. Marlon Chambers	6-8	Louisiana Tech	Spartanburg Methodist (S.C.)

**Redshirted in 1995-96.*

TOP JUNIOR COLLEGE SOPHOMORES

This year's top players:

POINT GUARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Junior college
1. Elton Scott	6-6	Sullivan College (Ky.)
2. C.J. Burton	6-2	Indian Hills CC (Iowa)
3. Michael Horton	6-0	Allegany CC (Md.)
4. Detric Golden	5-10	Northwest CC (Miss.)
5. Detrick White	6-1	Connors State College (Okla.)
6. Chauncey Jones	6-1	Wabash Valley College (Ill.)

OFF-GUARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Junior college
1. Marvis Thornton	6-4	Tallahassee (Fla.) CC
2. Antwon Morgan	6-2	Shelby State CC (Tenn.)
3. Delvin Washington	6-3	Butler County CC (Kan.)
4. Greg Griffin	6-4	Bevill State CC (Ala.)
5. John Woods	6-3	Connors State College (Okla.)
6. Reggie Hester	6-3	Northland Pioneer CC (Ariz.)

SMALL FORWARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Junior college
1. Cedric Goodwyn	6-7	Midland College (Texas)
2. Adrian Person	6-7	Southern Union State JC (Ala.)
3. Darius Cook	6-8	Gulf Coast CC (Fla.)
4. Willie Farley	6-6	Chaffey College (Calif.)
5. Eric Martin	6-5	Sullivan College (Ky.)
6. Marquise Gainous	6-9	Florida CC/Jacksonville

POWER FORWARDS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Junior college
1. Lee Nailon	6-8	Butler County CC (Kan.)
2. Omar Sneed	6-6	San Jacinto College (Texas)
3. Rico Harris	6-8	Los Angeles City College
4. Dion Edward	6-8	Westark CC (Ark.)
5. Oral Roberts	6-7	Bossier Parish CC (La.)
6. Derrick Paul	6-8	Pensacola (Fla.) JC

CENTERS

Rk./Name	Ht.	Junior college
1. Jermaine Ousley	6-8	Tyler (Texas) JC
2. Michael Batiste	6-9	Long Beach (Calif.) City College
3. Steven Eldridge	6-11	Tyler (Texas) JC
4. Leif Nelson	6-11	Utah Valley State College
5. Quincy Hall	7-0	Northland Pioneer CC (Ariz.)
6. Jabari Smith	6-11	Atlanta (Ga.) Metropolitan College

RATING THE TRANSFERS

Best scorer: Brandun Hughes.
Best passer under 6-5: Halim Abdullah (5-9), Coffeyville (Kan.) CC, to Illinois.
Best passer over 6-5: Rashad Tucker.
Best rebounder: Ruben Patterson.
Best leaper: Tyrone Nesby.
Most creative scorer: Johnnie Blake (6-3), Malcolm X JC (Ill.) to Rutgers.
Most overrated: Ed Jenkins.
Most underrated: Malcolm Johnson.
Biggest sleeper: Tedaryl Fason (6-0), Kankakee (Ill.) CC, to Fairleigh Dickinson.
Best catch: Doug Beatty.
Best shot blocker: Keon Clark.
Best ballhandler: Melvin Drake.
Best field-goal shooter: Versile Shaw (6-7), College of Eastern Utah, to UNC Charlotte.
Best free-throw shooter: Rusty Yoder (6-0), College of Southern Idaho, to South Alabama.
Best 3-point shooter: Greg Jones (6-3), Jacksonville (Texas) College, to West Virginia.
Best defensive player: Shamahn McBride (6-0), Casper (Wyo.) College, to Houston.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

THE SPORTING NEWS PRIME PROSPECTS

THE SPORTING NEWS asked five top recruiting "gurus" to provide lists of the top 100 high school seniors. We assigned each player a number based on each guru's ranking (100 points for a No. 1 ranking, 99 for a No. 2 and so on) and came up with this "master list." The number that follows each player is each guru's ranking.

KEY: CF—Clark Francis; VC—Van Coleman; BG—Bob Gibbons; RU—Recruiting USA; BO—Brick Oettinger.

Rk.	Player	Ht.	City/High school	CF	VC	BG	RU	BO
1.	Lamar Odom	6-9	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ the King	4	1	1	1	3
2.	Chris Burgess	6-10	Irvine, Calif./Woodbridge	1	3	2	13	1
3.	Tracy McGrady	6-8	Durham, N.C./Mount Zion Christian	2	4	4	16	4
4.	Shane Battier	6-8	Birmingham, Mich./Detroit Country Day	6	2	14	9	2
5.	Dion Glover	6-5	Decatur, Ga./Cedar Grove	11	5	6	18	5
6.	Schea Cotton	6-5	Bellflower, Calif./St. John Bosco	9	8	9	12	10
7.	Anthony Perry	6-3	Jersey City, N.J./St. Anthony	3	6	5	26	9
8.	Elton Brand	6-8	Peekskill, N.Y./Peekskill	10	17	3	19	6
	Ryan Humphrey	6-7	Tulsa, Okla./Booker T. Washington	7	11	19	5	13
10.	Baron Davis	6-1	Santa Monica, Calif./Crossroads	8	13	8	6	26
11.	Luke Recker	6-5	Waterloo, Ind./Dekalb	14	10	7	23	8
12.	Khalid El-Amin	5-10	Minneapolis/North	12	14	12	28	7
13.	Melvin Ely	6-10	Harvey, Ill./Thornton	13	19	10	15	20
14.	Jumaine Jones	6-8	Camilla, Ga./Mitchell-Baker	19	16	27	14	11
	Edwin Daniels	6-1	New Orleans/Cohen	16	7	25	17	22
16.	Ron Artest	6-6	New York/LaSalle	21	36	11	7	16
17.	Larry Hughes	6-5	St. Louis/Christian Brothers	38	15	20	3	19
18.	Marcus Griffin	6-7	Peoria, Ill./Manual	17	9	18	39	14
19.	Kenny Brunner	5-9	Compton, Calif./Dominguez	5	23	36	11	29
20.	Chris Owens	6-7	Duncanville, Texas/Duncanville	25	22	24	21	17
21.	Mark Karcher	6-5	Baltimore/St. Francis	20	18	22	25	36
	Jarron Collins	6-9	No. Hollywood, Calif./Harvard-Westlake	22	33	15	33	18
23.	Kenny Gregory	6-4	Columbus, Ohio/Independence	39	32	23	10	23
24.	Tony Harris	6-0	Memphis/East	24	27	17	35	28
25.	Eric Chenowith	7-1	Villa Park, Calif./Villa Park	27	41	21	24	24
26.	William Avery	6-2	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	46	28	13	32	31
27.	Marcus Fizer	6-8	Arcadia, La./Arcadia	37	24	33	38	37
28.	Brendan Haywood	7-0	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley	23	30	49	60	12
29.	Max Owens	6-5	Durham, N.C./Mount Zion Christian	54	42	32	22	30
30.	Britton Johnson	6-9	Murray, Utah/Murray	47	52	16	2	79
31.	Cameron Stephens	6-7	Fort Wayne, Ind./South	18	48	65	34	34
32.	James Felton	6-9	Bayonne, N.J./Marist	33	47	26	47	56
33.	Dean Oliver	5-9	Mason City, Iowa/Mason City	29	20	47	76	42
	Charlie Bell	6-3	Flint, Mich./Southwestern	26	50	30	45	63
35.	Estaban Weaver	6-3	Columbus, Ohio/Independence	45	29	—	8	32
36.	Byron Mouton	6-6	Rayne, La./Rayne	53	21	28	—	15
37.	Jermaine Medley	6-1	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	35	37	39	52	57
38.	Jamaal Davis	6-9	Merrillville, Ind./Merrillville	56	40	51	42	38
39.	Terrance Morris	6-7	Frederick, Md./Thomas Jackson	50	26	64	53	39
40.	Jason Collins	6-11	No. Hollywood, Calif./Harvard-Westlake	44	65	43	48	35
41.	Ryan "Arch" Miller	5-10	Beaver Falls, Pa./Blackhawk	32	59	40	70	40
42.	Brandon Smith	6-6	Amarillo, Texas/Palo Duro	58	25	29	36	—
43.	Ricky Davis	6-8	Davenport, Iowa/North	15	12	—	83	49
44.	Robert O'Kelley	6-0	Memphis/White Station	48	57	41	69	59
45.	Albert Mouring	6-3	Federalsburg, Md./Colonel Richardson	41	84	35	72	43
46.	Erik Barkley	6-1	Middle Village, N.Y./Christ the King	31	55	44	75	71
47.	Lamar Wright	6-9	Dallas/Carter	52	49	—	61	25
48.	Marvin O'Conner	6-3	Philadelphia/Simon Gratz	61	62	57	55	54
49.	Sergio McClain	6-4	Peoria, Ill./Manual	—	46	34	41	70
50.	Allen Griffin	6-3	Las Vegas/Durango	68	45	31	49	—
	Myron Anthony	6-6	Jacksonville Beach, Fla./Fletcher	—	34	60	51	48
52.	Kareem Shabazz	7-2	Lawrence, N.Y./Woodmere	71	75	38	63	61
53.	Mark Vershaw	6-9	East Peoria, Ill./East Peoria	40	54	48	67	—
54.	Brian Williams	6-7	Durham, N.C./Mount Zion Christian	75	66	56	87	27
55.	Reggie Jessie	6-6	Brooklyn, N.Y./Loughlin	—	44	53	82	33
	Atilla Cosby	6-9	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	49	91	46	74	53
57.	Ricardo Greer	6-5	Cheshire, Conn./Cheshire Academy	83	63	67	27	74
58.	Edmund Saunders	6-8	Waterbury, Conn./Holy Cross	—	31	45	100	41
59.	Tephen Hamilton	6-7	Jackson, Miss./Lanier	59	83	37	46	—
60.	Michael Redd	6-6	Columbus, Ohio/West	60	61	68	44	95
61.	Alvin Jones Jr.	6-11	Lakeland, Fla./Kathleen	95	60	—	31	45
62.	Elton Tyler	6-10	Boston/West Roxbury	36	—	—	4	97
	Brindley Wright	6-8	Miami/Miami High	84	56	73	62	64
64.	Kaspars Kambala	6-9	Mequon, Wis./Homestead	63	53	77	93	73
65.	Ronnie Griffin	6-9	Louisville, Ky./Central	—	38	—	77	44
66.	Shannon Crooks	6-3	Everett, Mass./Everett	67	—	—	20	77
67.	Kevin Augustine	5-11	Santa Ana, Calif./Mater Dei	—	35	50	81	—
68.	Stephen Dixson	6-4	Springfield, Ill./Springfield	—	39	42	—	88
69.	Charles Hayward	6-8	Alexandria, La./Peabody	70	71	63	96	72
70.	Ron Kelley	6-9	Emory, Texas/Rains	72	—	58	—	46
71.	Nick Irvin	6-1	Chicago/Carver	30	64	98	—	90
72.	Cory Little	6-4	Addison, Ill./Addison Trail	91	67	69	79	78
73.	Johnnie Parker	6-6	St. Louis/Webster Groves	85	58	71	—	76
74.	Brian Bersticker	6-10	Virginia Beach, Va./Kempsville	82	82	91	94	50
	Lorenzo Guess	6-3	Wayne, Mich./Memorial	57	68	75	—	98
76.	LeDaryl Billingsley	6-6	Chicago/Morgan	62	74	79	—	85
	Ryan Hogan	6-3	Deerfield, Ill./Deerfield	—	69	66	71	94
78.	Erik Herring	6-5	Harvey, Ill./Thornton	—	—	—	37	62
79.	Ben Perkins	6-7	Vinton, La./Vinton	43	87	81	—	91
80.	Mike Bradley	6-10	Worcester, Mass./Burncoat	77	—	92	50	84
81.	Kevin Henry	6-3	Denton, Texas/Ryan	—	70	74	—	65
82.	Tyrus Boswell	6-7	Mountain Brook, Ala./Mountain Brook	—	76	59	—	75
83.	Maurice Evans	6-5	Wichita, Kan./Collegiate	—	96	90	40	86
84.	Aaron McGhee	6-6	Aurora, Ill./East Aurora	96	92	80	95	51
85.	Alvin Brown	6-3	Washington, D.C./Gonzaga	—	93	61	64	—
	Trent Hassell	6-6	Clarksville, Tenn./Clarksville	34	—	83	—	—
87.	Shon Coleman	6-6	Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Acad.	—	—	—	—	21
88.	Bobby Moore	5-11	West Haven, Conn./West Haven	—	—	—	65	58
89.	Malik Evans	6-5	Wichita, Kan./Collegiate	28	—	—	—	—
90.	Larry Morrisey	6-9	Fayetteville, N.C./71st	—	—	—	29	—
	Jamaal Mosley	6-9	Vista, Calif./Ranchill Buena Vista	51	80	100	—	—
92.	Tony Lee	6-4	New Brunswick, N.J./St. Peter's	—	—	—	68	68
	Michael Johnson	6-5	Seattle/Ballard	42	—	94	—	—
94.	Bernard Smith	6-2	Conroe, Texas/Conroe	—	85	52	—	—
95.	Bernard Barrows	5-9	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's	—	—	—	56	87
96.	Chris Mihm	6-11	Austin, Texas/Westlake	—	—	—	43	—
	LeAndrew Bass	6-4	Birmingham, Ala./West End	—	90	54	—	—
	Renaldo Bratten	6-0	Simsboro, La./Simsboro	—	43	—	—	—
99.	Rafael Vidaurreta	6-8	New Hampton, NH Prep	—	77	70	—	—
100.	Carlos Gill	6-6	Flint, Mich./Northern	—	—	—	—	47

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES

CLARK FRANCIS—55. Jackie Rogers, 6-7, Syracuse, N.Y./Corcoran; 64. Jamie Roberts, 6-3, Albany, Ga./Daugherty; 65. Justin Felix, 5-11, Albuquerque, N.M./Cibola; 66. Steffon Bradfrod, 6-6, Clewiston, Fla./Clewiston; 69. Donald Hand, 5-11, Paterson, N.J./Paterson Catholic; 73. Delvon Arrington, 5-10, Jersey City, N.J./St. Anthony; 74. Ronell Blizzard, 6-9, Waterbury, Conn./Holy Cross; 76. James Hall, 5-11, Waco, Texas/Waco; 78. Rahim Lockhart, 6-8, Piney Woods, Miss./Piney Woods; 79. Sean Lampley, 6-7, Chicago/DeSales; 81. Juan Dixon, 6-2, Towson, Md./Calvert Hall; 86. Jeryl Sasser, 6-5, Dallas/Kimball; 87. Jamar Fields, 6-2, Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's; 89, Matt Baniak, 6-8, St. Louis/DeSmet; 92. Luke Axtell, 6-8, Austin, Texas/Westlake; 93. Jermaine Williams, 6-10, Garland, Texas/South Garland; 94. Dan Dickay, 6-0, Vancouver, Wash./Prairie; 97. Brian Wardle, 6-5, Hinsdale, Ill./Central; 98. Michael McDonald, 6-1, Long Beach, Calif./Poly; 99. Travis Reed, 6-6, Fontana, Calif./Miller; 100. Dennis Nathan, 6-5, Gresham, Ore./Gresham.

VAN COLEMAN—52. Ron Kelly, 6-10, Emory, Texas/Rains; 72. Corey Bradford, 6-0, Memphis, Tenn./Raleigh-Egypt; 73. Courtney Wallace, 6-3, Pittsburgh/Perry; 78. Doug Davis, 6-3, Columbus, Ohio/Westland; 79. Cedric Anderson, 6-7, Piney Woods, Miss./Piney Woods; 81. Steve Branch, 6-7, East Orange, N.J./St. Benedict's; 86. Delvon Arrington, 5-10, Jersey City, N.J./St. Anthony; 88. Adam Allenspach, 6-11, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla./Douglas; 89. Milo Stovall, 6-3, Kalamazoo, Mich./Central; 94. Chris Seabrook, 6-9, Macon, Ga./Northeast; 95. Myron Ransom, 6-6, Birmingham, Ala./West End; 97. Shannon Foreman, 6-6, Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab; 98. Andy Kowske, 6-9, Whitefish Bay, Wis./Dominican; 99. Jonathan Depina, 5-9, Boston/South Boston; 100. Matt Baniak, 6-8, St. Louis/DeSmet.

BOB GIBBONS—55. Jonathan Depina, 5-9, Boston/South Boston; 62. Michael McDonald, 6-1, Long Beach, Calif./Poly; 72. Chris Seabrooks, 6-9, Macon, Ga./Northeast; 76. Theo Dixon, 6-6, Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Cleveland Heights; 78. Courtney Wallace, 6-3, Pittsburgh/Perry; 82. Dennis Nathan, 6-5, Gresham, Ore./Gresham; 84. Brian Ward, 6-5, Hinsdale, Ill./Central; 85. Kilavoris Thompson, 6-6, Hammond, La./Hammond; 86. Joshua Asselin, 6-11, Caro, Mich./Caro; 87. Jon Carlisle, 6-10, Salt Lake City/Brighton; 88. T.J. McKenzie, 6-10, Trumbull, Conn./St. Joseph; 89. Adam Allenspach, 6-11, Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Douglas; 93. Jonathen Neely, 6-10, Rockingham, N.C./Richmond; 95. Scott Lilly, 6-1, Charlotte, N.C./Independence; 96. Dino Tanner, 6-2, Inglewood, Calif./Inglewood; 97. Nick Sparrow, 6-4, Ogden, Utah/Weber; 99. Rahim Johnson, 6-5, Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute.

RECRUITING USA—54. Shea Whiting, 6-5, Alief, Texas/Alief-Elsik; 57. Cornelius Williams, 6-9, Jacksonville, Ala./Jacksonville; 58. Solomon Hughes, 6-9, Torrance, Calif./Bishop Montgomery; 59. Travis Spivey, 6-3, Durham, N.C./Mt. Zion Christian; 66. Myron Ransom, 6-6, Birmingham, Ala./West End; 73. Dennis Nathan, 6-5, Gresham, Ore./Gresham; 78. Shannon Foreman, 6-6, Baton Rouge, La./Southern Lab; 80. Tarik London, 6-0, Savannah, Ga./Beach; 84. Andy Kowske, 6-9, Whitefish Bay, Wis./Dominican; 85. Hajj Malik Turner, 6-8, Charlottesville, Va./Charlottesville; 86. Rouldra Thomas, 6-7, Natchez, Miss.; 88. Rahim Johnson, 6-5, Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute; 89. Blain Harmon, 6-3, Rayne, La./Rayne; 90. Theo Dixon, 6-6, Cleveland Heights, Ohio/Cleveland Heights; 91. George Mazyck, 6-8, Durham, N.C./Mt. Zion Christian; 92. Delano D'Oyen, 6-0, Torrance, Calif./Bishop Montgomery; 97. Earl Watson, 6-2, Kansas City, Kan./Washington; 98. Adam Allenspach, 6-11, Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Douglas; 99. Leon Jones, 6-4, Battle Creek, Mich./Central.

BRICK OETTINGER—52. Ousseynoue Kane, 6-9, Washington, D.C./Dunbar; 55. Dan Dickau, 6-0, Vancouver, Wash./Prairie; 60. David Ross, 6-5, St. Petersburg, Fla/Boca Ciega; 66. Rahim Johnson, 6-5, Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute; 67. Jermaine Williams, 6-10, Garland, Texas/South Garland; 69. Tavorris Bell, 6-5, Hempstead, N.Y./Hempstead; 80. Travis Best, 6-2, Frankfort, Ind./Frankfort; 81. Greg Lakey, 6-7, Lynwood, Calif./Lynwood; 82. Kenny Inge, 6-8, Chatham, Va./Hargrave Military Academy; 83. Todd Ramasar, 6-5, Riverside, Calif./John North; 89. Ward Griffith, 6-5, Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More; 92. Jonathen Neely, 6-10, Rockingham, N.C./Richmond; 93. Aaron Turner, 6-6, Columbus, Ohio/Mifflin; 96. Travis Reed, 6-6, Fontana, Calif./Miller; 99. Jason Jennings, 6-11, Bald Knob, Ark./Bald Knob; 100. Adam Allenspach, 6-11, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla/Douglas.

WHERE THE CONSENSUS TOP 50 PLAYERS SIGNED

Rk./Player	City/High school	College
1. Kobe Bryant	Ardmore, Pa./Lower Merion	NBA
2. Tim Thomas	Paterson, N.J./Paterson Catholic	Villanova
3. Jermaine O'Neal	Columbia, S.C./Eau Claire	NBA
4. Winfred Walton	Detroit/Pershing	Syracuse
5. Ronnie Fields	Chicago/Farragut	None
6. Lester Earl	Baton Rouge, La./Glen Oaks	LSU
7. Corey Benjamin	Fontana, Calif./Fontana	Oregon State*
8. Michael Bibby	Phoenix/Shadow Mountain	Arizona
9. Charles Hathaway	Nashville, Tenn./Hillwood	Tennessee
10. Shaheen Holloway	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick	Seton Hall
11. Mateen Cleaves	Flint, Mich./Northern	Michigan State
12. Stephen Jackson	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill	Arizona*
13. Jason Collier	Springfield, Ohio/Central Catholic	Indiana
14. Mike Robinson	Peoria, Ill./Richwoods	Purdue
15. Vassil Evtimov	Brookville, N.Y./Long Island Lutheran	North Carolina
16. Loren Woods	St. Louis/Cardinal Ritter	Wake Forest
17. Richard Hamilton	Coatesville, Pa./Coatesville	Connecticut
18. Lucas Barnes	Miami/South Miami	Miami (Fla.)
19. Jermaine Walker	Pompano Beach, Fla./Ely	Miami (Fla.)
20. Ramel Lloyd	Bronx, N.Y./Cardinal Hayes	Syracuse
21. Ed Cota	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	North Carolina
22. Jerald Brown	Aldine, Texas/Aldine	Texas A&M
23. Lamont Barnes	Hopkinsville, Ky./University Heights	Temple
24. Willie Dersch	Flushing, N.Y./Holy Cross	Virginia
25. Michael Chappell	Lathrup Village, Mich./Southfield-Lathrup	Duke
26. Nate James	Frederick, Md./St. John's at Prospect Hall	Duke
Jaraan Cornell	South Bend, Ind./Clay	Purdue
28. Jason Hart	Los Angeles/Westchester	Syracuse
29. Issiah Epps	Pittsfield, Maine/Maine Central Institute	UNLV*
30. Glendon Alexander	Carrolton, Texas/Newman Smith	Arkansas
31. Kevin Freeman	Paterson, N.J./Paterson Catholic	Connecticut
32. Lavor Postell	Albany, Ga./Westover	St. John's
33. Cory Powell	Baton Rouge, La./Glen Oaks	Fresno State*
Kevin Morris	New York/Martin Luther King	Georgia Tech
35. Nate Johnson	Camden, N.J./Camden	Louisville
36. Malik Allen	Medford, N.J./Shawnee	Villanova
37. Joe Adkins	Oklahoma City/John Marshall	Oklahoma State
38. Desmond Mason	Waxahachie, Texas/Waxahachie	Oklahoma State
39. Kenyon Martin	Dallas/Bryan Adams	Cincinnati
40. Eugene Edgerson	New Orleans/St. Augustine	Arizona
41. Arthur Davis	Philadelphia/Frankford	St. Joseph's
42. Julian Dunkley	Cherry Hill, N.J./West	Temple
Devonaire Deas	Oakdale, Conn./St. Thomas More	Florida State
44. Donnie Carr	Philadelphia/Roman Catholic	La Salle
45. Julius Robinson	Selma, Ala./Selma	Auburn
Vincent Whitt	Greensboro, N.C./Dudley	Clemson
47. Shon Coleman	Statesville, N.C./West Iredell	Wake Forest†
48. Quentin Smith	Vicksburg, Miss./Vicksburg	Mississippi St.
Ed Sheffey	Mouth of Wilson, Va./Oak Hill Academy	Georgetown
50. Olujimi Mann	Santa Ana, Calif./Valley	Long Beach St.*

***—did not qualify for freshman eligibility; †—did not qualify for freshman eligibility; enrolled in a prep school this year.**

CONSENSUS TOP HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Rk./Player	Ht.	City/High school
1. Jaron Rush	6-7	Kansas City, Mo./Pembroke Hill
2. Corey Maggette	6-6	Oak Park, Ill./Fenwick
3. Korleone Young	6-7	Wichita, Kan./East
4. Jason Thomas	6-5	Compton, Calif./Dominguez
5. Ronald Curry	6-2	Hampton, Va./Hampton
6. Tayshaun Prince	6-7	Compton, Calif./Dominguez
7. J.R. Van Hoose	6-10	Paintsville, Ky./Paintsville
8. John Henderson	6-8	Nashville, Tenn./Pearl-Cohn
9. Stromile Swift	6-8	Shreveport, La./Fair Park
10. Jason Capel	6-7	Frederick, Md./St. John's at Prospect Hall
11. Tony Kitchings	6-10	Aiken, S.C./South Aiken
12. Ted Dupay	5-10	Cape Coral, Fla./Mariner
13. Travis Robinson	6-6	Durham, NC/Mt. Zion Christian
14. Paris London	6-7	Memphis, Tenn./Hamilton
15. Dave Fife	6-4	Clarkston, Mich./Clarkston
16. Vincent Yarbrough	6-6	Cleveland, Tenn./Cleveland
17. Eugene Land	6-7	Cincinnati/Roger Bacon
18. Craig Dawson	6-5	Kinston, N.C./Kinston
19. Al Harrington	6-8	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick's
20. Ernest Brown	6-10	Bronx, N.Y./St. Raymond's

CONSENSUS TOP HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES

Rk./Player	Ht.	City/High school
1. DeMarr Johnson	6-8	Kensington, Md./Newport Prep
2. Keith Bogans	6-4	Hyattsville, Md./DeMatha
3. Marvin Stone	6-8	Huntsville, Ala./Grissom
4. Jason Kapono	6-6	Lakewood, Calif./Artesia
5. Donnell Harvey	6-6	Randolph, Ga./Cuthbert-Clay
6. Jason Gardner	5-10	Indianapolis/North Central
7. Nathan Popp	7-1	Shelbyville, Ky./Shelby Co.
8. Courtland Freeman	6-7	Myrtle Beach, S.C./Socastee
9. Matt Carroll	6-5	Horsham, Pa./Hatboro-Horsham
10. Josh Moore	6-11	Jersey City, N.J./St. Anthony
Maurice Jackson	6-9	Elizabeth, N.J./St. Patrick's

ELSA HASCH / THE SPORTING NEWS

Former St. Louis Cardinal Ritter center Loren Woods has cast his lot with Wake Forest. Woods, a 7-footer who led his high school to a state title, is ranked 16th in THE SPORTING NEWS' list of the nation's top 50 freshmen.

ABOUT THE "GURUS" ...

• **Van Coleman** is associate publisher of *Future Stars* magazine. For subscription information, write P.O. Box 1269, Pinehurst, NC 28374; or call 910-295-5559.

• **Clark Francis** is editor and publisher of *The Hoop Scoop.* For subscription information, call 502-493-0043.

• **Bob Gibbons** is editor and publisher of All Star Sports Publications for fans and the All Star Scouting Service for colleges. For subscription information, write P.O. Box 955, Lenoir, NC 28645-0955; or call 704-758-5827.

• **Brick Oettinger** is the recruiting columnist for *The ACC Area Sports Journal.* He also is the recruiting analyst for the *Prep Stars Recruiting Handbook.* For subscription information about both, write P.O. Box 4323, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4323; or call 800-447-7667.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH

If you want to watch the top prep seniors this season, head west, young men, to California. That's where you will find Chris Burgess and Schea Cotton, each considered among the top 10 players in the nation by most scouting services.

The 6-10 Burgess, who has drawn comparisons to Bill Walton, Christian Laettner and Don MacLean, is considered the top player in the nation by some recruiting know-it-alls. A few years ago, that distinction belonged to the 6-3 Cotton among players in the Class of 1997.

The L.A.-area duo first met while playing on a youth team in the fifth grade. Later, they locked horns playing at different middle schools, where Cotton ruled the roost over Burgess. The rivalry had begun.

When it came time for high school, Burgess thought he could escape Cotton's looming stature by attending Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei, but Cotton transferred to the prep power from Bellflower (Calif.) St. John Bosco. The tandem was together again, much to Burgess' chagrin.

After an unhappy freshman season dominated by Cotton and his ball-hogging ways, Burgess packed his bags. This time, he transferred to a school close to home, Woodbridge High in Irvine, where he averaged 21.9 points and 11.4 rebounds as a sophomore and 26.3 points and 10.6 rebounds as a junior. Those numbers have caused many to compare him to former Orange County studs Cherokee Parks and Adam Keefe.

Meanwhile, Cotton was still turning heads at Mater Dei and St. John Bosco (he transferred back there before his junior season), but it was evident his game wasn't progressing. It became clear Burgess had passed Cotton on the prospect meter at the 1996 summer camps, where Cotton still showed an inability to shoot consistently and was no longer able to bully foes who had grown to match him physically.

Will they meet again in college? Cotton committed to Long Beach State in September, where he figures to play one season with his brother, James, before turning pro. Burgess supposedly favors Duke, but UCLA or BYU (Burgess is a Mormon) may snag him.

NO TURNING BACK

Forgive Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim for being selfish; he just couldn't let this one get away.

His coveted point guard signee, 6-2 Jason Hart from Inglewood High in Los Angeles, said he wanted to be released from his letter-of-intent in order to stay closer to his brother, Jadifi, who has a severe kidney ailment. Syracuse declined because it suspected tampering by a West Coast school. But Boeheim also was concerned because without Hart, his team would be without a point guard. Lazarus Sims had graduated and David Patrick had transferred. That meant Marius Janulis likely would have been the point guard. That wouldn't have been good.

Had Hart reneged, it's likely he would have been forced to sit out his freshman season and possibly would have lost a year of eligibility. Unable to get an unconditional release from Boeheim, Hart will suit up for the Orangemen. If he stays healthy, the Orangemen have enough talent returning and arriving to be a Top 10 team. Aside from Hart, freshman power forward Winfred Walton has hoop prognosticators hopping and shaking like a kid on Christmas .

AHEAD OF THE CLASS

Most high school kids worry about finding a date for the prom, but not Khalid El-Amin, a star at North High in Minneapolis. One of the top point guard prospects in the nation, the 5-10 El-Amin is married, so all of his weekends are accounted for. And if he stays out late, he also has to answer to his parents, who know his moves because El-Amin and his wife live with them.

While El-Amin's situation is unique, he's just one of many talented point guards in the nation. In fact, this may be the year of the point guard. Other top lead guards include Baron Davis of Crossroads High in Santa Monica, Calif.; Edwin Daniels of Cohen High in New Orleans; Larry Hughes of Christian Brothers College in St. Louis; Kenny Brunner of Dominguez High in Compton, Calif.; Tony Harris of East High in Memphis, Tenn.; William Avery of Oak Hill Academy in Mouth of Wilson, Va.; and Dean Oliver of Mason City High in Mason City, Iowa. All are rated among the top 33 seniors in the nation by THE SPORTING NEWS.

CRAIG HACKER / THE SPORTING NEWS

Burgess, a 6-10 forward from the Los Angeles area, is considered one of the top players in this year's senior class. Some analysts think he is the best.

THE KANSAS CITY KID

Who's the best junior in the nation? Many give the honor to Jaron Rush of Pembroke Hill in Kansas City, Mo. The 6-7 Rush has made great strides since his freshman season, honing his outside shot and sharpening his focus. Some of Rush's improvement can be attributed to the arrival of his brother, Kareem, whose presence last season prevented foes from concentrating on JaRon.

As for turning pro early, Rush, who averaged 27 points, 14 rebounds and five assists as a sophomore en route to being named K.C. area player of the year, says forget it. He'd prefer to go to college. For the geographically challenged, Lawrence, Kan., home of the Jayhawks, is 45 miles from Rush's home town, so expect a hard push from Roy Williams. ◆

—TOM DIENHART

DIVISION II PREDICTIONS

1. FORT HAYS STATE (KAN.)
The defending national champions return three starters who accounted for 74 percent of the team's offense.

2. CAL STATE BAKERSFIELD
The Roadrunners have been to six of the past seven Elite Eights, winning titles in 1993 and '94. They return three starters from a 26-4 team.

3. NORTHERN KENTUCKY
Last year's national runner-up returns seven of its top 10 players (four starters) from a 25-7 team.

4. VIRGINIA UNION
The always-tough Panthers lost all five starters. Still, they don't rebuild, they reload.

5. ST. ROSE (N.Y.)
The Golden Knights are looking for a second consecutive trip to the Elite Eight. Four starters return, including 7-2 center Garth Joseph.

6. CALIFORNIA (PA.)
The Vulcans' frontcourt returns, and they have filled holes on the perimeter. The question is how they will adjust to new coach Bill Brown.

7. CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
The Bronchos can put up the points, averaging more than 100 a game in each of the past four seasons. But can they score enough to reach the Elite Eight?

8. ALABAMA A&M
Is this the Bulldogs' year? They have been to the past three Elite Eights but have yet to win a game.

9. WASHBURN (KAN.)
The Ichabods missed the national tourney for the first time since 1991, but with all five starters returning, they won't miss this season.

10. SEATTLE PACIFIC
The Falcons essentially return five starters, with three from last year's 23-6 team and two returning from a year off.

FIRST TEAM

Pos./Player	School	Class
C Alonzo Goldston	Fort Hays State (Kan.)	Sr.
C Garth Joseph	St. Rose (N.Y.)	Jr.
G Carlos Knox	Indiana-Purdue/Indianapolis	Sr.
F LaRon Moore	Northern Kentucky	Sr.
F Kebu Stewart	Cal State Bakersfield	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos./Player	School	Class
F Dan Buie	Washburn (Kan.)	Jr.
F Tyrone Hopkins	Central Oklahoma	Sr.
C Robert Jones	California (Pa.)	Sr.
C Steve Mercer	Bellarmine (Ky.)	Sr.
F Sherick Simpson	Fort Hays State (Kan.)	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kebu Stewart, F, Cal State Bakersfield

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Vince Graham, G, California (Pa.)

By Tony Coccagna

Somebody wins the national title every year, but few teams go undefeated in the process. Fort Hays State (Kan.) reached that elite status last season, capping a 34-0 season with a 70-63 victory over Northern Kentucky in the NCAA Division II championship game in Louisville, Ky.

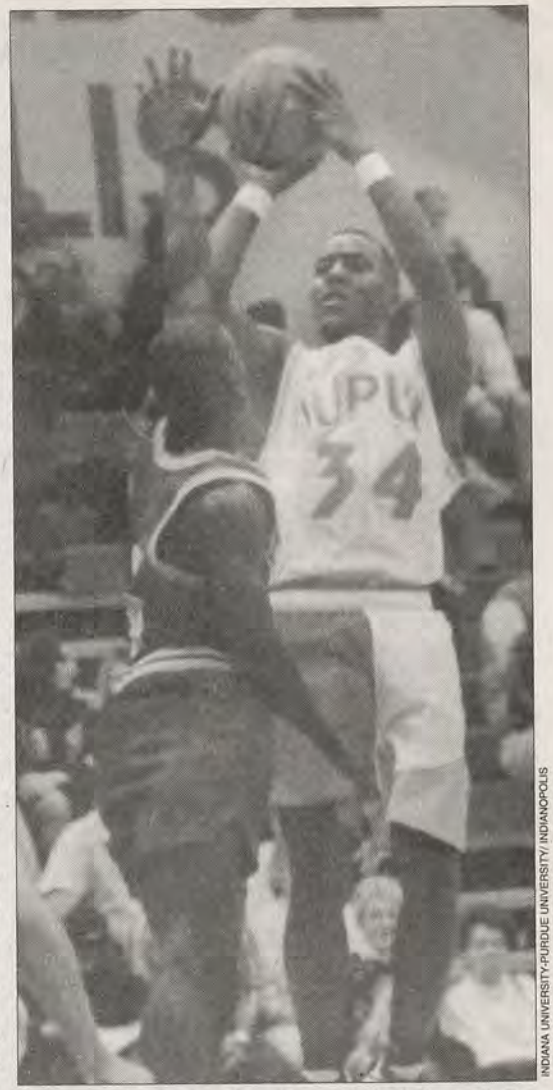
The Tigers emerged as the only unbeaten team in any college division last year and joined Evansville (1965) and Cal State Bakersfield (1993) as the only teams in the 40-year history of Division II to go through a season without a loss.

Fort Hays returns six of its top eight players, including a trio of seniors who accounted for 74 percent of the team's offense: 6-9 center Alonzo Goldston, 6-6 forward Sherick Simpson and 6-4 forward Anthony Pope. Goldston was a first-team All-American, Simpson was named MVP of the Elite Eight (Division II's version of the Final Four) and Pope set a championship-game record by hitting 6-of-7 3-point attempts.

The Tigers are coached by Gary Garner, a former coach at Division I Drake. He is 109-42 in five seasons at Fort Hays.

NOTES: Eight of the country's top teams—each representing one of the nation's eight regions—will converge on the Arthur Ashe Center in Richmond, Va., for the Division II Tip-Off Classic on November 8-10. Nicknamed the Great Eight, the tournament field is host Virginia Union, South Dakota, Cal State Bakersfield, Florida Southern, Northern Kentucky, St. Rose (N.Y.), Washburn (Kan.) and Fairmont (W.Va.) State. ... If you haven't heard of Garth Joseph, you will. Joseph, a 7-2, 300-pound junior center, plays for St. Rose and has attracted NBA attention despite playing only two full seasons of organized basketball. A native of the island of Dominica in the Caribbean, he has become a sort of cult hero in and around Albany, N.Y., where St. Rose is located. Joseph can palm a basketball with any two fingers, and he has been known to wear a cowboy hat around campus, stretching his height to about eight feet. ... Several of the nation's top programs have new coaches. California (Pa.), a national semifinalist last year, will be led this season by Bill Brown, formerly of Division III Kenyon (Ohio) College; Indiana (Pa.) will be headed by Gary Edwards, formerly of Division I Charleston Southern (S.C.); Kentucky Wesleyan's new coach is Ray Harper, a longtime assistant at the school; and Central Missouri State now is headed by Don Doucette, formerly of Chaminade (Hawaii). ... California (Pa.)'s Jim Boone, Indiana (Pa.)'s Kurt Kanaskie and Central Missouri's Bob Sundvold made the jump to Division I, taking over programs at Robert Morris, Drake and Missouri-Kansas City, respectively. ... Central Missouri is the all-time leader in victories among Division II schools (1,246). North Dakota ranks No. 2 with 1,228. ... An era will come to an end after this season at Lander College (S.C.), where Finis Horne will retire as coach and athletic director after 29 seasons. His record at the school is 476-367. ... A Great Lakes Valley Conference team has played in the past three national title games. The conference gains more strength this year with the addition of Missouri-St. Louis. ... Central Oklahoma is shooting for its fifth consecutive national scoring title. The Bronchos have averaged 113.6, 103.4, 107.3 and 101.1 points over the past four years. ◆

Tony Coccagna is sports editor of the Indiana (Pa.) Gazette.



Senior guard Carlos Knox of Indiana-Purdue/Indianapolis is one of the top players in the nation.

TOP FIVE GAMES

RoWashburn (Kan.) at Fort Hays State (Kan.), November 19.
California (Pa.) at Indiana (Pa.), January 11.
Fort Hays State (Kan.) at Nebraska-Kearney, January 22.
UC Riverside at Cal State Bakersfield, January 30.
Northern Kentucky at Southern Indiana, March 1.

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

DIVISION III PREDICTIONS

1. WISCONSIN-PLATTEVILLE

The Pioneers look to become Division III's team of the '90s by winning their third national title since 1991.

2. ROANOKE (VA.)

Plenty of talent and experience could get the Maroons to the Final Four, where they'd enjoy a distinct home court advantage at the Salem (Va.) Civic Center.

3. RICHARD STOCKTON (N.J.)

A team from the New Jersey Athletic Conference has reached the Final Four seven times in the past 10 years. Stockton could make it eight in 11.

4. WILLIAMS (MASS.)

Led by preseason All-American forward Michael Nogelo, the Ephs figure to be the class of the Northeast Region and a possible Final Four team.

5. LYCOMING (PA.)

With all but one regular back, including preseason All-American forward Andy Rutherford, the Warriors are poised to become a national power.

6. HOPE (MICH.)

Junior guard Joel Holstege, who scored 39 points in last year's title game, gives the Flying Dutchmen hope of a return trip to the Final Four.

7. ROCHESTER INST. OF TECH. (N.Y.)

Preseason Player of the Year Craig Jones makes the Tigers the beast of NCAA Division III's East Region.

8. WHEATON (ILL.)

The Crusaders feature one of the best backcourts in the nation with senior guards Wesley Pitts and Matt Nadelhoffer.

9. JOHN CARROLL (OHIO)

The Blue Streaks have four returning starters from a 19-8 squad, including Joey Bigler, the top 3-point shooter in Division III last season.

10. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Chicago, which has the same nickname as Roanoke, also shares a dream of national prominence with 10 of its top 11 players returning.

FIRST TEAM

Pos./Player	School	Class
F Andy Rutherford	Lycoming (Pa.)	Jr.
F Michael Nogelo	Williams (Mass.)	Jr.
C Craig Jones	Rochester Inst. of Tech.(N.Y.)	Sr.
G Dennis Ruedinger	Wisconsin-Oshkosh	Sr.
G Carl Cochran	Richard Stockton (N.J.)	Sr.

SECOND TEAM

Pos./Player	School	Class
G Wesley Pitts	Wheaton (Ill.)	Sr.
G Ben Hoffman	Wisconsin-Platteville	Jr.
F Bryan Crabtree	Christopher Newport (Va.)	Sr.
G Jason Bishop	Roanoke (Va.)	Sr.
G Gerald Ross	Susquehanna (Pa.)	Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Craig Jones, C, Rochester Institute of Technology

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Dave Jannuzzi, G, Wilkes (Pa.)

BY STEVE SEMBRAT

Roanoke College wants to make a return trip to the NCAA Division III Final Four. This time, the Maroons want to be participants, not spectators.

Last year, Roanoke made it to the Sweet 16 before being eliminated by Illinois Wesleyan. Many Maroons went to the Final Four anyway since the semifinals and finals were played at the Salem (Va.) Civic Center, located less than a mile from the Roanoke campus.

The Salem Civic Center will host the Final Four again this season, so Roanoke would have a decided home-court advantage if it advances that far. The Maroons, who return their top seven scorers from last year's 24-5 squad, figure to have a legitimate shot at accomplishing that goal.

Roanoke graduated just one senior and returns an extremely balanced squad led by preseason All-American guard Jason Bish-op. To win it all, though, the Maroons will have to contend with a tournament field that figures to include some perennial national powers along with some new faces in the Division III elite.

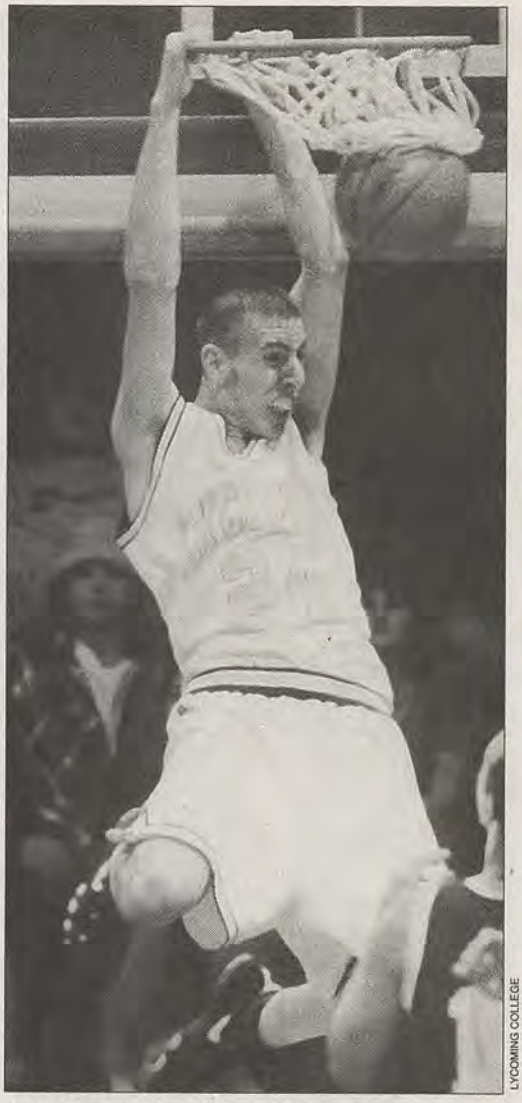
The team of the 1990s in Division III has been Wisconsin-Platteville. The Pioneers, who won national titles in 1991 and '95 and finished third in '92, lost just one senior off a team that went 23-2 last season before being upset in the first round of the NCAA playoffs. With leading scorer Ben Hoffman and top rebounder Scott Borroughs returning, it's unlikely the Pioneers will make another early exit.

Rowan College (N.J.), last year's national champ, graduated six seniors and changed coaches. But that doesn't mean the trend of New Jersey Athletic Conference teams reaching the Final Four will end. Richard Stockton College (N.J.) has a talented squad led by preseason All-American guard Carl Cochran, and could make its first trip to the Final Four since 1987. That would put an NJAC team in the semifinals for the eighth time in the past 11 years.

Lycoming College (Pa.) and Williams College (Mass.) were NCAA Tournament teams last year and could develop into Final Four contenders. Hope (Mich.), last year's runner-up, graduated some talented players but returns Joel Holstege, who scored 39 points in last year's title game. All three schools will be factors in the national picture.

NOTES: Illinois Wesleyan, which figures to return to the Division III tournament this year, has a reputation for not going down easily. When Illinois Wesleyan lost to Rowan, 79-77, in last year's national semifinals, it marked the fourth time the Titans were eliminated by the eventual national champ. ... Catholic University's 92-88 upset of Rowan last season was memorable for two reasons. One, it was the biggest victory in the 81-year history of the program; second, the school raised more than $2,000 for the "Coaches vs. Cancer Program." Catholic coach **Mike Lonergan**, who lost his mother to breast cancer before last season, got his program involved in Coaches vs. Cancer, which was inspired by the death of former North Carolina State coach **Jim Valvano**. Catholic raised more than $3,000 during last season for Coaches vs. Cancer. ... Beloit (Wis.) College coach **Bill Knapton**, the fifth-winningest coach in Division III history, will step down after this season. Knapton, 69, has won 550 games in 39 seasons at the school and has had 31 winning seasons, including the past 20. ◆

Steve Sembrat is a sportswriter for the Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times Leader.



LYCOMING COLLEGE

Junior forward Andy Rutherford is the main reason Lycoming (Pa.) should have another good season.

TOP FIVE GAMES

1. Roanoke at Franklin & Marshall, December 1.
2. Richard Stockton at Rowan, December 3.
3. Wisconsin-Platteville at Wisconsin-Oshkosh, January 15.
4. Hope at Calvin, January 29.
5. Lycoming at Susquehanna, February 8.

1996-97 NCAA DIVISION I SCHEDULES

EDITOR'S NOTE: The schedules are provided by the schools and may change.

AIR FORCE
N23 ... Regis
N26 ... Adams State
N28 ... Bucknell
N30 ... Navy
D3 ... Doane
D7 ... at Cal Poly-SLO
D21 ... Colo.-Colorado Springs
D28-29 ... Bobcat Holiday Ct.
J4 ... at SMU
J9 ... Hawaii
J11 ... San Diego State
J16 ... at San Jose State
J18 ... at Fresno State
J23 ... SMU
J25 ... at UNLV
J30 ... Wyoming
F1 ... Colorado State
F6 ... at San Diego State
F8 ... Hawaii
F13 ... Fresno State
F15 ... San Jose State
F20 ... UNLV
F22 ... Wofford
F27 ... at Colorado State
M1 ... at Wyoming

AKRON
N23 ... Cleveland State
N30 ... at Duquesne
D2 ... Wooster
D5-7 ... Gaucho Classic
D15 ... at Canisius
D21 ... Xavier
D30 ... George Mason
J4 ... at Miami of Ohio
J8 ... Toledo
J11 ... at Ohio U.
J13 ... Bowling Green
J15 ... at Western Michigan
J18 ... Ball State
J22 ... at Central Michigan
J25 ... at Kent
J29 ... Eastern Michigan
F1 ... at Toledo
F5 ... Ohio U.
F8 ... at Bowling Green
F12 ... Western Michigan
F15 ... at Ball State
F19 ... Central Michigan
F22 ... Kent
F26 ... at Eastern Michigan
M1 ... Miami of Ohio

ALABAMA
N22-24 ... Top of the World Cl.
N30 ... NE Illinois
D2 ... Arkansas-Pine Bluff
D5 ... Minnesota
D7 ... at Florida International
D14 ... Western Carolina
D18 ... North Texas
D27-28 ... Cable Car Classic
J4 ... at Vanderbilt
J8 ... at Mississippi
J11 ... Syracuse
J15 ... Arkansas
J18 ... at Florida
J22 ... South Carolina
J25 ... Louisiana State
J28 ... at Auburn
F1 ... at Mississippi State
F5 ... Georgia
F8 ... at Tennessee
F12 ... Mississippi
F15 ... at Louisiana State
F19 ... Kentucky
F22 ... Auburn
F26 ... at Arkansas
M1 ... Mississippi State

UAB
N22 ... Auburn
N27 ... Florida A&M
D1 ... Grambling State
D4 ... at Vanderbilt
D7 ... Md.-Eastern Shore
D10 ... at South Alabama
D14-15 ... Hawaii-Nike Festival
D18 ... UT-Chattanooga
D20-21 ... UAB Classic
D27-28 ... Tribune Classic
J3 ... Louisville
J5 ... Tulane
J8 ... at Cincinnati
J11 ... at Houston
J18 ... at Southern Miss
J25 ... Memphis
J29 ... at Saint Louis
F1 ... South Florida
F6 ... at UT-Chattanooga
F8 ... DePaul
F13 ... at Tulane
F15 ... Southern Miss
F17 ... Marquette
F23 ... at UNC Charlotte
M1 ... at South Florida

ALABAMA STATE
N23 ... at George Mason
N26 ... at Georgetown
N30 ... ay Jacksonville State
D6-7 ... Hawaii Invitational
D12 ... Troy State
D14 ... Alabama A&M
D18 ... at Ohio State
D20 ... at Dayton
D23 ... at Minnesota
J4 ... at Texas Southern
J6 ... at Prairie View A&M
J11 ... Southern
J13 ... Alcorn State
J18 ... Mississippi Valley
J20 ... Grambling State
J25 ... Jackson State
J28 ... at Troy State
F1 ... Texas Southern
F3 ... Prairie View A&M
F8 ... at Southern
F10 ... at Alcorn State
F12 ... George Mason
F15 ... at Mississippi Valley
F17 ... at Grambling State
F19 ... at Florida State
F22 ... at Jackson State
F26 ... Jacksonville State

ALCORN STATE
N26 ... at Iowa State
N30 ... Arkansas Pine-Bluff
D5 ... at Murray State
D7 ... Tougaloo College
D14 ... Indiana U-Purdue
D16 ... at Oklahoma State
D21 ... at Arkansas Little-Rock
D28 ... Murray State
J4 ... Mississippi Valley
J6 ... Grambling State
J11 ... at Jackson State
J13 ... at Alabama State
J18 ... at Prairie View A&M
J20 ... at Texas Southern
J25 ... at Southern
J29 ... Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F1 ... at Mississippi Valley
F3 ... at Grambling State
F5 ... Oral Roberts
F8 ... Jackson State
F10 ... Alabama State
F15 ... Prairie View A&M
F17 ... Texas Southern
F22 ... Southern
F26 ... at Oral Roberts

AMERICAN
N23 ... Catholic
N30 ... at Iona
D2 ... George Washington
D4 ... at Loyola (Md.)
D6-7 ... Missoulian/Coca-Cola Cl.
D11 ... at La Salle
D14 ... at Howard
D23 ... at Maryland
J2 ... Richmond
J4 ... at East Carolina
J6 ... at UNC Wilmington
J11 ... James Madison
J13 ... at William & Mary
J15 ... Old Dominion
J18 ... George Mason
J22 ... Va. Commonwealth
J29 ... at James Madison
F1 ... UNC Wilmington
F3 ... East Carolina
F8 ... at Va. Commonwealth
F12 ... at Richmond
F17 ... Manhattan
F19 ... at Old Dominion
F22 ... William & Mary
F24 ... at George Mason

APPLACHIAN STATE
N26 ... East Carolina
N30 ... Milligan
D2 ... at UNC Charlotte
D5 ... UNC Greensboro
D7 ... at Georgia
D19 ... at Marquette
D21 ... at Montana State
D27-28 ... Lobo Invitational
J4 ... at Niagara
J6 ... Virginia Military
J8 ... at UNC Greensboro
J11 ... at Western Carolina
J14 ... at Furman
J18 ... Georgia Southern
J20 ... Davidson
J25 ... at Marshall
J27 ... East Tennessee State
F1 ... at UT-Chattanooga
F3 ... at Virginia Military
F8 ... Western Carolina
F10 ... Marshall
F15 ... at East Tennessee State
F17 ... The Citadel
F22 ... at Davidson

ARIZONA
N22 ... North Carolina*
N26 ... Northern Arizona
N30 ... at New Mexico
D7 ... Utah†
D9 ... Texas
D14 ... Jackson State
D21 ... Michigan‡
D28-30 ... Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J2 ... California
J4 ... Stanford
J11 ... at Arizona State
J16 ... at Southern California
J18 ... at UCLA
J23 ... Oregon State
J25 ... Oregon
J30 ... at Washington
F1 ... at Washington State
F5 ... Arizona State
F15 ... USC
F20 ... at Oregon
F22 ... at Oregon State
F27 ... Washington State
M1 ... Washington
M6 ... at Stanford
M8 ... at California
*Springfield, Mass.
†Los Angeles
‡Detroit

ARIZONA STATE
N27-30 ... Great Alaska Shootout
D2 ... Sam Houston State
D5 ... Oklahoma State
D20 ... Jackson State
D22 ... NE Illinois
D27-28 ... Tribune Classic
J2 ... Stanford
J4 ... California
J11 ... Arizona
J16 ... at UCLA
J18 ... at Southern California
J23 ... Oregon
J25 ... Oregon State
J30 ... at Washington State
F1 ... at Arizona
F8 ... at Arizona State
F13 ... Southern California
F15 ... UCLA
F20 ... Oregon State
F22 ... Oregon
F27 ... Washington
M1 ... Washington State
M6 ... at California
M8 ... Stanford

ARKANSAS
N22 ... Jackson State
N27 ... at Oral Roberts
N30 ... San Francisco
D7 ... Missouri
D10 ... Troy State
D19 ... McNeese State
D28 ... Southern Utah
J2 ... Mississippi
J5 ... at Florida
J8 ... at Auburn
J11 ... Louisiana State
J15 ... at Alabama
J18 ... at Cincinnati
J21 ... Mississippi State
J26 ... Kentucky
J29 ... at Mississippi
F1 ... Memphis
F5 ... Tennessee
F8 ... at Vanderbilt
F11 ... Auburn
F15 ... Georgia
F18 ... at South Carolina
F23 ... at Mississippi State
F26 ... Alabama
M1 ... at Louisiana State

ARKANSAS LITTLE-ROCK
N20 ... at Saint Louis*
D2 ... Texas Tech
D5 ... at Auburn
D7 ... Sam Houston State
D12 ... at Arkansas-Pine Bluff
D19 ... Truman State
D21 ... Alcorn State
D28 ... Lamar
J2 ... at South Alabama
J4 ... at New Orleans
J9 ... Louisiana Tech
J11 ... Jacksonville
J13 ... Arkansas Pine-Bluff
J16 ... at Louisiana Tech
J23 ... South Alabama
J25 ... SW Louisiana
J27 ... Western Kentucky
J30 ... at Texas Pan-American
F1 ... Arkansas State
F5 ... at Lamar
F9 ... at Western Kentucky
F15 ... at Arkansas State
F17 ... at Jacksonville
F20 ... New Orleans
F22 ... Texas-Pan American
*Preseason NIT.

ARKANSAS STATE
N25 ... at Mississippi Valley
N27 ... Southwestern (Kan.)
N30 ... at Jacksonville
D4 ... at Missouri
D7 ... West Alabama
D14 ... Murray State
D17 ... at Tennessee Tech
D19 ... Mississippi Valley
D23 ... Oklahoma State
J2 ... at SW Louisiana
J4 ... at South Alabama
J9 ... Jacksonville
J11 ... Louisiana Tech
J16 ... at Texas-Pan American
J18 ... at New Orleans
J23 ... SW Louisiana
J25 ... South Alabama
J27 ... New Orleans
J30 ... at Lamar
F1 ... at Arkansas-Little Rock
F6 ... at Western Kentucky
F8 ... at Louisiana
F13 ... Western Kentucky
F15 ... Arkansas-Little Rock
F20 ... Texas-Pan American
F22 ... Lamar

ARMY
N26 ... Vassar
N30 ... Bethany
D4 ... Harvard
D10 ... Yale
D22 ... at Duke
D27-28 ... Hoosier Classic
J2 ... at Marist
J4 ... Brown
J8 ... Navy
J11 ... Holy Cross
J14 ... Cornell
J18 ... Colgate
J20 ... at Columbia
J22 ... Lehigh
J25 ... at Lafayette
J27 ... Dartmouth
J29 ... at Bucknell
F1 ... at Navy
F5 ... at Holy Cross
F8 ... at Wofford
F12 ... at Colgate
F15 ... at Lehigh
F18 ... Lafayette
F22 ... Bucknell

AUBURN
N22 ... at UAB
N25 ... Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N29-D1 ... Big Island Invitational
D7 ... Georgia State
D14 ... Baylor
D15 ... Western Carolina
D18 ... South Alabama
D30 ... Winthrop
J4 ... at South Carolina
J8 ... Arkansas
J11 ... Florida
J15 ... Tennessee
J18 ... at Kentucky
J22 ... at Louisiana State
J25 ... at Georgia
J28 ... Alabama
F1 ... at Mississippi
F5 ... Mississippi State
F8 ... Louisiana State
F11 ... at Arkansas
F15 ... Vanderbilt
F22 ... at Alabama
F26 ... at Mississippi State
M1 ... Mississippi

AUSTIN PEAY
N23 ... Cumberland
N25 ... Thomas College
N29-D1 ... United Tip-Off Cl.
D7 ... at Eastern Kentucky
D14 ... Southern Illinois
D18 ... at Northern Illinois
D22 ... Western Carolina
D27 ... at Iowa
D30-31 ... Pepsi Oneida Classic
J2 ... Eastern Illinois
J4 ... Southeast Missouri
J9 ... at Tennessee Tech
J11 ... at Murray State
J13 ... at UT-Martin
J18 ... at Tennessee State
J23 ... Middle Tennessee
J25 ... Eastern Kentucky
J27 ... Morehead State
F1 ... at Eastern Illinois
F3 ... at Southeast Missouri
F6 ... at Middle Tennessee
F8 ... UT-Martin
F10 ... Murray State
F15 ... Tennessee State
F20 ... Tennessee Tech
F22 ... at Morehead State

BALL STATE
N23 ... Grand Valley St.
N26 ... at Michigan
N29-30 ... 1st Merchants Bank Cl.
D5 ... Western Michigan
D7 ... at Butler
D14-15 ... Hawaii-Nike Festival
D21 ... Northeast Louisiana
D27 ... at Wisconsin
D30 ... Indiana State
J4 ... at Toledo
J8 ... Ohio U.
J11 ... at Bowling Green
J15 ... at Central Michigan
J18 ... at Akron
J22 ... Kent
J25 ... at Eastern Michigan
J29 ... Miami of Ohio
F1 ... at Ohio U.
F5 ... Bowling Green
F8 ... at Western Michigan
F12 ... Central Michigan
F15 ... Akron
F19 ... at Kent
F22 ... Eastern Michigan
F26 ... at Miami of Ohio
M1 ... Toledo

BAYLOR
N22-24 ... Top of the World Cl.
N30 ... Lamar
D3 ... Mo.-Kansas City
D6-7 ... Dr Pepper Invitational
D14 ... at Auburn
D18 ... Prairie View A&M
D21 ... Texas-Pan American
D28 ... Northwestern State
D31 ... Drake
J4 ... at Texas
J8 ... Alaska-Fairbanks
J11 ... Texas A&M
J15 ... at Oklahoma
J18 ... Oklahoma State
J22 ... Texas Tech
J25 ... at Texas A&M
J29 ... Colorado
F1 ... at Missouri
F5 ... Kansas
F8 ... Nebraska
F12 ... at Iowa State
F15 ... at Kansas State
F19 ... Texas
F22 ... Oklahoma
F26 ... at Oklahoma State
M1 ... at Texas Tech

BETHUNE-COOKMAN
N25 ... at Florida
D1 ... at North Carolina
D7 ... at Central Florida
D10 ... Morris Brown College
D14 ... at Kansas State
D16 ... at Creighton
D31 ... at Long Beach State
J2 ... at Hampton
J6 ... St. Peter's
J11 ... at Delaware State
J13 ... Md.-Eastern Shore
J18 ... South Carolina State
J20 ... North Carolina A&T
J23 ... at Morgan State
J25 ... at Howard
J27 ... at Coppin State
F1 ... at North Carolina A&T
F3 ... at South Carolina State
F8 ... at Florida A&M
F13 ... Morgan State
F15 ... Howard
F17 ... Coppin State
F22 ... at Delaware State
F24 ... at Md.-Eastern Shore
F26 ... Hampton
M1 ... at Florida A&M

BOISE STATE
N23 ... at Washington
N30 ... Pepperdine
D2 ... at Idaho State
D7 ... at Weber State
D13-14 ... Cougar Classic
D20 ... Oregon
D27-28 ... Albertson's Holiday Cl.
J6 ... at Long Beach State
J9 ... Utah State
J11 ... Nevada
J16 ... Eastern Michigan
J18 ... at Idaho
J23 ... at North Texas
J25 ... at New Mexico State
J30 ... UC Irvine
F1 ... Cal State Fullerton
F6 ... at Cal Poly-SLO
F8 ... at UC Santa Barbara
F13 ... New Mexico State
F15 ... North Texas
F20 ... at Nevada
F22 ... at Utah State
F27 ... Pacific
M1 ... Idaho

BOSTON COLLEGE
N22 ... Brown
N25 ... New Hampshire
D4 ... Rutgers
D7 ... at Connecticut
D9 ... Vanderbilt
D21 ... at Holy Cross
D27 ... Central Connecticut
D29 ... at Louisville
J2 ... Miami (Fla.)
J4 ... at Seton Hall
J7 ... at Syracuse
J11 ... at Notre Dame
J13 ... Georgetown
J18 ... Massachusetts
J22 ... Pittsburgh
J25 ... Villanova
J29 ... at West Virginia
F1 ... at Providence
F4 ... Syracuse
F9 ... at St. John's
F12 ... Connecticut
F16 ... Seton Hall
F19 ... at Miami (Fla.)
F23 ... at Pittsburgh
M1 ... Notre Dame

BOSTON UNIVERSITY
N22-23 ... Auerbach Colonial Cl.
N30 ... at East Carolina
D6 ... at Towson State
D8 ... at Delaware
D10 ... at Harvard
D12 ... at TCU
D27-28 ... Sports Foundation Cl.
J2 ... at New Hampshire
J4 ... Maine
J10 ... Hofstra
J12 ... Drexel
J16 ... at Hartford
J18 ... at Vermont
J21 ... Northeastern
J24 ... Delaware
J26 ... Towson State
J29 ... Oral Roberts
F1 ... at Northeastern
F6 ... at Hofstra
F8 ... at Drexel
F13 ... Vermont
F15 ... Hartford
F20 ... New Hampshire
F23 ... at Maine

BOWLING GREEN
N23 ... at James Madison
N26 ... Detroit
N30 ... at Purdue
D4 ... Northern Illinois
D6-7 ... Ameritas Classic
D11 ... at Wright State
D14 ... Tiffin
D30-J1 ... San Juan Classic
J4 ... at Central Michigan
J8 ... at Western Michigan
J11 ... Ball State
J13 ... at Akron
J15 ... Kent
J18 ... at Eastern Michigan
J22 ... Miami of Ohio
J25 ... at Toledo
J29 ... Ohio U.
F1 ... Western Michigan
F5 ... at Ball State
F8 ... Akron
F12 ... at Kent
F15 ... Eastern Michigan
F19 ... at Miami of Ohio
F22 ... Toledo
F26 ... at Ohio U.
M1 ... Central Michigan

BRADLEY
N30 ... Chicago State
D2 ... at Michigan
D7 ... Kansas State
D10 ... Butler
D18 ... at Penn State
D23 ... Western Illinois
D27 ... at Oregon State
D27-28 ... Far West Classic
D31 ... Southern Illinois
J5 ... at SW Missouri St.
J7 ... at Wichita State
J11 ... Evansville
J13 ... Indiana State
J18 ... at Creighton
J20 ... at Northern Iowa
J25 ... Southwest Missouri
J27 ... Wichita State
F1 ... at Illinois State
F5 ... at Evansville
F8 ... Creighton
F10 ... at Southern Illinois
F13 ... Drake
F15 ... at Indiana State
F18 ... Northern Iowa
F22 ... Illinois State
F24 ... at Drake

BRIGHAM YOUNG
N22 ... Cal State Fullerton
N26 ... at Washington
N30 ... Pacific
D4 ... at Weber State
D10 ... Utah State
D13-14 ... Cougar Classic
D21 ... at Georgia
D27 ... at Penn State
D31 ... San Diego State
J4 ... at Wyoming
J11 ... Utah
J16 ... at Texas Christian
J18 ... at SMU
J23 ... Rice
J25 ... Tulsa
F1 ... at Texas-El Paso
F3 ... at New Mexico
F6 ... at Utah
F8 ... Wyoming
F13 ... TCU
F15 ... SMU
F20 ... at Tulsa
F22 ... at Rice
F27 ... New Mexico
M1 ... Texas-El Paso

BROWN
N22 ... at Boston College
N30 ... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
D1 ... at Lafayette
D4 ... at Rhode Island
D7 ... at Wisconsin
D10 ... Holy Cross
D21 ... at Providence
D28 ... at Cal State Fullerton
D30 ... at Loyola Marymount
J2 ... at Kansas
J4 ... at Army
J10 ... Princeton
J11 ... Pennsylvania
J18 ... Yale
J20 ... at Bucknell
J25 ... at Yale
J31 ... at Harvard
F1 ... at Dartmouth
F7 ... Cornell
F8 ... Columbia
F14 ... at Pennsylvania
F15 ... at Princeton
F21 ... at Columbia
F22 ... at Cornell
F28 ... Harvard
M1 ... Dartmouth

BUCKNELL
N23 ... Robert Morris
N25 ... Niagara
N28 ... at Air Force
N30 ... at Colorado State
D4 ... Delaware
D7 ... St. Francis (Pa.)
D10 ... at Princeton
D22 ... at Penn State
D27-28 ... Lobo Invitational
J3 ... at Cornell
J8 ... at Colgate
J11 ... Lehigh
J15 ... at Lafayette
J20 ... Brown
J22 ... Navy
J25 ... at Holy Cross
J29 ... Army
F1 ... Colgate
F3 ... Western Maryland
F5 ... at Lehigh
F8 ... Lafayette
F12 ... Md.-Baltimore Co.
F15 ... at Navy
F18 ... Holy Cross
F22 ... at Army

BUFFALO
N22 ... at Miami (Fla.)
N26 ... at Cornell
N30 ... Niagara
D3 ... Canisius
D7 ... St. Bonaventure
D10 ... Syracuse
D12 ... Morgan State
D18 ... at Niagara
D29-30 ... MVP Holiday Classic
J4 ... Central Conn. St.
J8 ... at Valparaiso
J11 ... Mo.-Kansas City
J13 ... Troy State
J18 ... at Western Illinois
J22 ... Youngstown State
J25 ... at Chicago State
J27 ... at NE Illinois
F1 ... Valparaiso
F3 ... Western Illinois
F6 ... at Troy State
F8 ... at Mo.-Kansas City
F12 ... at Youngstown State
F15 ... NE Illinois
F17 ... Chicago State
F22 ... at Central Conn. St.

BUTLER
N26 ... at Indiana State
N29 ... Tulane*
N30 ... Villanova*
D1 ... American-Puerto Rico*
D4 ... Anderson (Ind.)
D7 ... Ball State
D10 ... at Bradley
D14 ... at Evansville
D23 ... at Indiana
D28 ... at Florida International
D30 ... at Florida State
J2 ... at Cleveland State
J5 ... Western Kentucky
J9 ... at Illinois-Chicago
J11 ... Loyola of Chicago
J16 ... Wis.-Milwaukee
J18 ... Wis.-Green Bay
J20 ... at Detroit
J23 ... at Northern Illinois
J25 ... at Wright State
J30 ... Cleveland State
F1 ... Detroit
F5 ... Marshall
F8 ... at Loyola of Chicago
F12 ... Illinois-Chicago
F15 ... at Wis.-Milwaukee
F18 ... at Wis.-Green Bay
F20 ... Northern Illinois
F22 ... Wright State
*San Juan, Puerto Rico

CALIFORNIA
N25-27 ... Maui Invitational
N30 ... Texas Southern
D3 ... Illinois
D8-9 ... Franklin Natl. Bank Cl.
D20 ... Penn State*
D23 ... San Francisco
D27-28 ... Golden Bear Classic
J2 ... at Arizona
J4 ... at Arizona State
J9 ... Southern California
J11 ... UCLA
J16 ... at Oregon State
J18 ... at Oregon
J23 ... Washington State
J25 ... Washington
F1 ... Stanford
F6 ... at UCLA
F8 ... at Southern California
F13 ... Oregon
F15 ... Oregon State
F20 ... at Washington
F22 ... at Washington State
M1 ... at Stanford
M6 ... Arizona State
M8 ... Arizona
*East Rutherford, N.J.

UC IRVINE
N22 ... at San Diego State
D2 ... at Washington State
D4 ... Eastern Washington
D7 ... UNLV
D15 ... Southern California
D21 ... at Cal State Northridge
D23 ... San Diego
D28 ... Utah
J5 ... at San Francisco
J9 ... Pacific
J11 ... Long Beach State
J16 ... at Cal Poly-SLO
J18 ... at UC Santa Barbara
J23 ... Nevada
J25 ... Cal State Fullerton
J30 ... at Boise State
F1 ... at Idaho
F6 ... North Texas
F8 ... New Mexico State
F13 ... at Utah State
F15 ... at Cal State Fullerton
F20 ... at Long Beach State
F22 ... at Pacific
F25 ... at Southern Utah
F27 ... UC Santa Barbara
M1 ... Cal Poly-SLO

CAL POLY-SLO
N22 ... Simon Fraser
N23 ... College of Notre Dame
N26 ... Loyola Marymount
N29-30 ... Coors Light Classic
D4 ... Cal-Santa Cruz
D7 ... Air Force
D13-14 ... Hawaii-Nike Festival
D21 ... at George Mason
D27-28 ... Golden Bear Classic
J4 ... Portland
J9 ... New Mexico State
J11 ... UC Santa Barbara
J16 ... UC Irvine
J18 ... Cal State Fullerton
J23 ... at Pacific
J25 ... at Long Beach State
J30 ... at Utah State
F1 ... at Nevada
F6 ... Boise State
F8 ... Idaho
F13 ... Long Beach State
F15 ... Pacific
F18 ... Idaho State
F20 ... at North Texas
F22 ... UC Santa Barbara
F27 ... at Cal State Fullerton
M1 ... at UC Irvine

UC SANTA BARBARA
N22 ... Westmont College
N25 ... at Pepperdine
D1 ... at St. Mary's
D5-7 ... Gaucho Classic
D14 ... San Francisco
D21 ... at Colorado
D23 ... at Cal State Northridge
D30 ... San Diego
J4 ... Loyola Marymount
J9 ... North Texas
J11 ... at Cal Poly-SLO
J16 ... Cal State Fullerton
J18 ... UC Irvine
J23 ... at Long Beach State
J25 ... at Pacific
J30 ... at Nevada
F1 ... at Utah State
F6 ... Idaho
F8 ... Boise State
F13 ... Pacific
F15 ... Long Beach State
F20 ... at New Mexico State
F22 ... Cal Poly-SLO
F27 ... at UC Irvine
M1 ... at Cal State Fullerton

CAL STATE FULLERTON
N22 ... at Brigham Young
N30 ... Utah

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

D3 ..... at Montana
D7 ..... at Loyola Marymount
D10 ..... at San Diego
D14 ..... Loyola of Chicago
D21 ..... Pepperdine
D28 ..... Brown
D30 ..... Columbia
J3 ..... at Gonzaga
J9 ..... Long Beach State
J11 ..... Pacific
J16 ..... at UC Santa Barbara
J18 ..... at Cal Poly-SLO
J23 ..... Utah State
J25 ..... at UC Irvine
J30 ..... at Idaho
F1 ..... at Boise State
F6 ..... New Mexico State
F8 ..... North Texas
F13 ..... at Nevada
F15 ..... UC Irvine
F20 ..... at Pacific
F22 ..... at Long Beach State
F27 ..... Cal Poly-SLO
M1 ..... UC Santa Barbara

CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE

N23 ..... at UNLV
N27 . Cal State Dominguez Hills
N30 ..... at Loyola Marymount
D3 ..... at UCLA
D12 ..... Ohio U.
D16 ..... St. Mary's
D19 ..... at Pepperdine
D21 ..... UC Irvine
D23 ..... UC Santa Barbara
D29 ..... at Iowa
J2 ..... Portland State
J4 ..... Eastern Washington
J9 ..... at Montana State
J11 ..... Montana
J15 ..... Cal State Sacramento
J16 ..... Weber State
J23 ..... at Idaho State
F1 ..... Northern Arizona
F6 ..... Montana
F8 ..... Montana State
F13 ..... at Eastern Washington
F15 ..... at Portland State
F20 ..... at Weber State
F22 ... at Cal State Sacramento
F27 ..... at Northern Arizona
M1 ..... Idaho State

CAL STATE SACRAMENTO

N22 ..... at Northern Arizona
N26 ..... St. Mary's
N30 ..... at Montana
D4 ..... at Cal-Davis
D6-7 ... Bank One-Foothills Cl.
D14 ..... at Creighton
D23 ..... at Pacific
J4 ..... Pacific
J7 ..... Portland State
J10 ... at Eastern Washington
J15 ... at Cal State Northridge
J18 ..... at Idaho State
J22 ..... Montana State
J23 ..... Montana
J26 ..... Oral Roberts
J30 ..... at Montana State
F1 ..... Weber State
F6 ..... at Portland State
F8 ..... Eastern Washington
F13 ..... at Montana
F15 ..... Idaho State
F20 ..... Northern Arizona
F22 ..... Cal State Northridge
F27 ..... at Weber State
M1 ..... at Northern Arizona

CAMPBELL

N27 ..... at Hampton
D2 ..... East Carolina
D12 ..... Tusculum
D14 ..... at UNC Wilmington
D19 ..... at Richmond
D21 ..... at Wake Forest
D27-28 . Albertson's Holiday Cl.
J2 ..... at Georgia State
J4 ..... at Mercer
J9 ..... Samford
J11 ..... at Jacksonville State
J13 ..... at Duke
J16 ..... Florida International
J18 ..... Florida Atlantic
J20 ..... at Wofford
J25 ... at College of Charleston
J30 ..... at Stetson
F1 ..... at Central Florida
F3 ..... College of Charleston
F6 ..... Stetson
F8 ..... Central Florida
F13 ..... at Florida Atlantic
F15 ... at Florida International
F20 ..... Centenary
F22 ..... SE Louisiana

CANISIUS

N23 ..... Western Michigan
N25 ..... Valparaiso
N30 ..... St. Bonaventure
D3 ..... at Buffalo
D7 ..... Niagara
D15 ..... Akron
D18 ..... at Toledo
D21 ..... UNC Charlotte
D28-29 ... Dr Pepper Classic
J2 ..... Colgate
J6 ..... at Fairfield
J9 ..... at Kentucky
J14 ..... Manhattan
J20 ..... Loyola (Md.)
J26 ..... at St. Peter's
J27 ..... at Providence
J31 ..... Iona
F2 ..... Siena
F5 ..... at Niagara
F8 ..... Fairfield
F10 ..... St. Peter's
F13 ..... at Loyola (Md.)
F15 ..... at Siena
F21 ..... at Iona
F23 ..... at Manhattan

CENTENARY

N23 ..... Lamar
N25 ..... at TCU
N27 ..... at New Mexico
N30 ..... Wiley College
D2 ..... Northwestern State
D4 ..... East Texas State
D7 ..... Southwest Texas State
D14 ..... at Oklahoma
D16 ..... at SMU
J2 ..... at Florida Atlantic
J4 ..... Florida International
J9 ..... Central Florida
J11 ..... Stetson
J16 ..... at Jacksonville State
J18 ..... at Samford
J25 ..... SE Louisiana
J30 ..... Mercer
F1 ..... Georgia State
F3 ..... at SE Louisiana
F6 ..... at Mercer
F8 ..... at Georgia State
F10 ..... at Tulane
F13 ..... Samford
F15 ..... Jacksonville State
F20 ..... at Campbell
F22 ..... at Charleston

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE

D23 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
N30 ..... Northeastern
D6 ..... at Md.-Baltimore Co.
D9 ..... Vermont
D20-21 .. So. Florida Holiday Inv.
D27 ..... at Boston College
D30 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
J2 ..... at Youngstown State
J4 ..... at Buffalo
J6 ..... NE Illinois
J8 ..... Chicago State
J18 ..... at Valparaiso
J20 ..... at Western Illinois
J25 ..... Troy State
J27 ..... Mo.-Kansas City
F1 ..... at Chicago State
F3 ..... at NE Illinois
F10 ..... Western Illinois
F12 ..... Valparaiso
F15 ..... at Troy State
F17 ..... at Mo.-Kansas City
F22 ..... Buffalo
F24 ..... Youngstown State

CENTRAL FLORIDA

F22 ..... at Florida
F27 ..... Winthrop
N30 ..... Tennessee-Temple
D3 .. Nova Southeastern (Fla.)
D7 ..... Bethune-Cookman
D14 ..... at South Florida
D19 ... at North Carolina State
D23 ..... Youngstown State
D28-29 ... Dr Pepper Classic
J2 ..... Jacksonville State
J4 ..... Samford
J9 ..... at Centenary
J11 ..... at SE Louisiana
J16 ..... at Mercer
J18 ..... Georgia State
J23 ..... at Florida Atlantic
J25 ... at Florida International
J30 ... College of Charleston
F1 ..... Campbell
F3 ..... Stetson
F6 ... at College of Charleston
F8 ..... at Campbell
F15 ..... at Stetson
F20 ..... Florida International
F22 ..... Florida Atlantic

CENTRAL MICHIGAN

N22 ..... Michigan-Dearborn
N26 ..... at Northwestern
N30 ..... at Fairfield
D6-7 ..... Illini/Pepsi Classic
D17 ..... Detroit
D20-21 .. So. Florida Holiday Inv.
J4 ..... Bowling Green
J8 ..... at Eastern Michigan
J11 ..... Western Michigan
J13 ..... at Miami of Ohio
J15 ..... Ball State
J18 ..... at Toledo
J22 ..... Akron
J25 ..... at Ohio U.
J29 ..... Kent
F1 ..... Eastern Michigan
F5 ..... at Western Michigan
F8 ..... Miami of Ohio
F12 ..... at Ball State
F15 ..... Toledo
F19 ..... at Akron
F22 ..... Ohio U.
F26 ..... at Kent
M1 ..... at Bowling Green

CHARLESTON

N22 ..... Charleston Southern
N27-30 . Great Alaska Shootout
D7 ..... The Citadel
D14 ..... Presbyterian
D16 ..... Elon
D19 ..... at Oklahoma State
D28-29 ... Franklin Life Classic
J1 ..... at Mercer
J4 ..... at Georgia State
J9 ..... Jacksonville State
J11 ..... at Samford
J13 ..... at Wofford
J16 ..... Florida Atlantic
J18 ..... Florida International
J25 ..... Campbell
J30 ..... at Central Florida
F1 ..... at Stetson
F3 ..... at Campbell
F6 ..... Central Florida
F8 ..... Stetson
F13 ... at Florida International
F15 ..... at Florida Atlantic
F20 ..... SE Louisiana
F22 ..... Centenary

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN

N22 ..... College of Charleston
N26 ..... Anderson
N30 ..... at Toledo
D2 ..... Centenary
D6-7 ..... Pepsi-Marist Classic
D14 ..... at Clemson
D16 ..... at Furman
D18 ..... South Carolina State
D21 ..... at The Citadel
D28 ..... at South Carolina
J2 ..... The Citadel
J9 ..... Coastal Carolina
J11 ..... at UNC Greensboro
J16 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
J18 ..... at UNC Asheville
J25 ..... at Liberty
J27 ..... at Radford
J30 ..... Winthrop
F1 ..... UNC Asheville
F3 ..... at Coastal Carolina
F8 ..... UNC Greensboro
F13 ..... at Winthrop
F15 ..... Radford
F17 ..... Liberty
F22 ..... at Md.-Baltimore Co.

CHICAGO STATE

N23 ..... at Missouri
N30 ..... at Bradley
D2 ..... at Maryland
D4 ..... Loyola of Chicago
D7 ..... at Illinois-Chicago
D11 ..... at Illinois
D18 ..... Western Michigan
D21 ..... at Colorado State
D23 ..... at Northern Illinois
D27 ..... at Indiana State
J2 ..... at NE Illinois
J8 ..... at Central Connecticut
J11 ..... Western Illinois
J14 ..... Valparaiso
J18 ..... Mo.-Kansas City
J20 ..... at Troy State
J25 ..... Buffalo
J27 ..... Youngstown State
F1 ..... Central Connecticut
F6 ..... at Valparaiso
F8 ..... at Western Illinois
F10 ..... Troy State
F12 ..... at Mo.-Kansas City
F15 ..... at Youngstown State
F17 ..... at Buffalo
F22 ..... NE Illinois

CINCINNATI

N23 ..... Western Carolina
N26 ..... Xavier
N30 ..... Rutgers
D4 ..... Kansas*
D17 ..... Howard
D19 ..... Eastern Michigan
D28 ..... Western Kentucky†
D30-J1 ... San Juan Classic
J5 ..... at Saint Louis
J8 ..... UAB
J10 ..... Miami of Ohio
J16 ..... Temple
J18 ..... Arkansas
J21 ..... at UNC Charlotte
J26 ..... at Southern California
J30 ..... at Louisville
F1 ..... DePaul
F6 ..... Tulane
F8 ..... Marquette
F10 ..... at Washington
F13 ..... Saint Louis
F15 ..... South Carolina
F18 ..... Houston
F20 ..... at South Florida
F22 ..... at DePaul
F25 ..... Southern Miss
F27 ..... at Marquette
M1 ..... at Memphis
*Chicago
†Cleveland

THE CITADEL

N22 ..... Limestone
N25 ..... Wake Forest
N27 ..... Greenboro
N30 ..... at William & Mary
D3 ..... Anderson
D7 .... at College of Charleston
D12 ..... Winthrop
D14 ..... Wingate
D21 ..... Charleston Southern
D30 ..... at Stetson
J2 ..... at Charleston Southern
J6 ..... Western Carolina
J11 ... at East Tennessee State
J13 ..... Marshall
J18 ..... Virginia Military
J20 ..... Western Carolina
J25 ..... at Georgia Southern
J27 ..... Davidson
F1 ..... Furman
F3 ..... UT-Chattanooga
F8 ..... at Virginia Military
F10 ..... at UT-Chattanooga
F15 ..... Georgia Southern
F17 ..... at Appalachian State
F20 ..... South Carolina
F22 ..... at Furman

CLEMSON

N15 ..... Kentucky*
N23 ..... Coastal Carolina
N29-D1 ... San Juan Shootout
D4 ..... Furman
D7 ..... at Virginia
D14 ..... Charleston Southern
D17 ..... at South Carolina
D20 ..... Wofford
D22 ..... at Texas A&M
D28 ..... Marshall
D30 ..... South Carolina State
J7 ..... Duke
J11 ..... at Florida State
J15 ..... at Maryland
J18 ..... North Carolina State
J23 ..... Wake Forest
J26 ..... at North Carolina
J30 ..... Georgia Tech
F1 ..... at North Carolina State
F4 ..... Western Kentucky
F8 ..... Maryland
F12 ..... at Wake Forest
F15 ..... Virginia
F18 ..... at Duke
F23 ..... Florida State
F26 ..... North Carolina
M1 ..... at Georgia Tech
*Indianapolis

CLEVELAND STATE

N23 ..... Georgetown
N25 ..... at Akron
N30 ..... Michigan
D3 ..... at Michigan State
D7 ..... at Wichita State
D14 ..... Kent
D16 ..... Youngstown State
D23 ..... at Toledo
D30 ..... Colorado State
J2 ..... Butler
J4 ..... Wright State
J9 ..... at Wis.-Green Bay
J11 ..... Wis.-Milwaukee
J15 ..... at Iona
J18 ..... Loyola of Chicago
J20 ..... Northern Illinois
J23 ..... Detroit
J25 ..... at Illinois-Chicago
J30 ..... at Butler
F1 ..... at Wright State
F6 ..... Wis.-Green Bay
F8 ..... Wis.-Milwaukee
F13 ..... at Northern Illinois
F15 ..... at Loyola
F20 ..... at Detroit
F22 ..... Illinois-Chicago

COASTAL CAROLINA

N23 ..... at Clemson
N26 ..... Wingate
N29-30 . 1st Merchants Bank Cl.
D4 ..... Mt. Olive
D7 ..... at Virginia Tech
D14 ..... Lees McRae
D21 ..... Furman
D28-29 ... Dr Pepper Classic
J2 ..... Georgia Southern
J9 ... at Charleston Southern
J11 ..... at Winthrop
J18 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
J20 ..... at UNC Asheville
J25 ..... at Radford
J27 ..... at Liberty
J30 ..... UNC Asheville
F1 ..... UNC Greensboro
F3 ..... Charleston Southern
F5 ..... UNC Wilmington
F8 ..... at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F15 ..... Liberty
F17 ..... Radford
F20 ..... Winthrop
F22 ..... at UNC Greensboro

COLGATE

N22 ..... at Dartmouth
N26 ..... Fairfield
D6-7 ..... Ameritas Classic
D20 ..... Harvard
D22 ..... at Syracuse
D27-28 ... Hoosier Classic
J2 ..... at Canisius
J4 ..... at Siena
J6 ..... Manhattan
J8 ..... Bucknell
J11 ..... Navy
J15 ..... at Holy Cross
J18 ..... at Army
J21 ..... Cornell
J23 ..... Iona
J25 ..... at Lehigh
J27 ..... St. Bonaventure
J29 ..... Lafayette
F1 ..... at Bucknell
F5 ..... at Navy
F8 ..... Holy Cross
F12 ..... Army
F15 ..... Canisius
F19 ..... Lehigh
F22 ..... Lafayette

COLORADO

N24 ..... Drake
N27-D1 .. Big Island Invitational
D5 ..... Texas-Arlington
D7 ..... at George Mason
D10 ..... at Wyoming
D12 ..... Colorado State
D21 ..... UC Santa Barbara
D23 ..... at Georgia
D28 ..... at Mo.-Kansas City
D30 ..... Northwestern State
J4 ..... Nebraska
J8 ..... at Missouri
J11 ..... at Texas Tech
J15 ..... Oklahoma State
J18 ..... Iowa State
J22 ..... at Baylor
J26 ..... Kansas
J29 ..... at Kansas State
F5 ..... at Nebraska
F8 ..... Texas A&M
F12 ..... at Oklahoma
F15 ..... at Kansas
F19 ..... Kansas State
F22 ..... Missouri
F24 ..... Wofford
F26 ..... at Iowa State

COLORADO STATE

N15 ..... Simon Fraser
N22 ..... Adams State
N26 ..... Texas A&M
N30 ..... Bucknell
D3 ..... Nevada
D6-7 ... Bank One-Foothills Cl.
D12 ..... at Colorado
D14 ..... at Utah State
D21 ..... Chicago State
D28 ..... Denver
D30 ..... at Cleveland State
J4 ..... at Utah
J11 ..... Wyoming
J16 ..... at Hawaii
J18 ..... at San Diego State
J23 ..... Fresno State
J25 ..... San Jose State
J30 ..... at UNLV
F1 ..... at Air Force
F6 ..... at Wyoming
F8 ..... Utah
F13 ..... San Diego State
F15 ..... Hawaii
F20 ..... at San Jose State
F22 ..... at Fresno State
F27 ..... Air Force
M1 ..... UNLV

COLUMBIA

N22-23 ... Lobo Classic
N26 ..... Fordham
N30 ..... at Providence
D6-7 ..... Illini/Pepsi Classic
D10 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
D30 ..... at Cal State Fullerton
J2 ..... at San Diego
J6 ..... at Lehigh
J10 ..... at Harvard
J11 ..... at Dartmouth
J14 ..... Ursinus
J18 ..... at Cornell
J20 ..... Army
J25 ..... Cornell
J31 ..... Pennsylvania
F1 ..... Princeton
F7 ..... at Yale
F8 ..... at Brown
F14 ..... Harvard
F15 ..... Dartmouth
F21 ..... Brown
F22 ..... Yale
F28 ..... at Pennsylvania
M1 ..... at Princeton

CONNECTICUT

N15 ..... Indiana*
N25 ..... Northeastern
N29 ..... Yale
D4 ..... at Pittsburgh
D7 ..... Boston College
D21 ..... Fairfield
D23 ..... Virginia
D27 ..... Massachusetts
D29 ..... Hartford
J2 ..... at Rutgers
J4 ..... West Virginia
J8 ..... St. John's
J11 ..... at Georgetown
J19 ..... Kansas
J22 ..... at Miami (Fla.)
J26 ..... Syracuse
J29 ..... Providence
F1 ..... at Seton Hall
F3 ..... Georgetown
F8 ..... at Notre Dame
F12 ..... at Boston College
F15 ..... Miami (Fla.)
F17 ..... at Syracuse
F23 ..... at Villanova
F25 ..... Pittsburgh
M1 ..... Seton Hall
*Indianapolis

COPPIN STATE

N30 ..... at Oklahoma
D6-7 ..... Ameritas Classic
D10 ..... Duquesne
D12 ..... at Kansas State
D14 ..... at Illinois
D27-28 ... Olds Spartan Classic
J9 .... at South Carolina State
J11 ..... at Hampton
J15 ..... North Carolina A&T
J18 ..... Hampton
J20 ..... at Md.-Eastern Shore
J25 ..... Florida A&M
J27 ..... Bethune-Cookman
J30 ..... at Howard
F1 ..... at Morgan State
F5 ..... at Delaware State
F8 ..... Morgan State
F10 ..... Howard
F12 ..... Delaware State
F15 ..... at Florida A&M
F17 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
F20 ..... South Carolina State
F26 ..... at North Carolina A&T
M1 ..... Md.-Eastern Shore

CORNELL

N26 ..... Buffalo
N30 ..... at Lehigh
D2 ..... Harvard
D6-7 ... Boilermaker Invitational
D14 ..... Iona
D28-29 ... Bobcat Holiday Cl.
J3 ..... Bucknell
J6 ..... Lafayette
J10 ..... at Dartmouth
J11 ..... at Harvard
J14 ..... at Army
J18 ..... Columbia
J21 ..... at Colgate
J25 ..... at Columbia
J31 ..... Princeton
F1 ..... Pennsylvania
F7 ..... at Brown
F8 ..... at Yale
F14 ..... Harvard
F15 ..... Dartmouth
F21 ..... Yale
F22 ..... Brown
F28 ..... at Pennsylvania
M1 ..... at Princeton

CREIGHTON

N25 ..... Mo.-Kansas City
N26 ..... Southern
N29 ..... at Florida
N30-D1 ... San Juan Shootout
D7 ..... Northern Iowa
D14 ... Cal State Sacramento
D16 ... Bethune-Cookman
D21 ..... at Houston
D29 ..... Illinois State
J2 ..... at Northern Iowa
J4 ..... Houston
J8 ..... at Nebraska
J11 ..... Wichita State
J16 ..... Southern Illinois
J18 ..... Bradley
J25 ..... at Evansville
J27 ..... at Southern Illinois
J30 ..... at SW Missouri St.
F2 ..... Evansville
F6 ..... Drake
F8 ..... at Bradley
F10 ..... Indiana State
F15 ..... SW Missouri St.
F17 ..... at Drake
F20 ..... Wichita State
F22 ..... at Indiana State
F24 ..... at Illinois State

DARTMOUTH

N22 ..... Colgate
N24 ..... Lafayette
N30-D1 .. Summit Bank Classic
D4 ..... at Holy Cross
D14 ..... New Hampshire
D17 ..... at Harvard
D21 ..... at Navy
D29-30 ... MVP Holiday Classic
J3 ..... Middlebury
J6 ..... Harvard
J10 ..... Cornell
J11 ..... Columbia
J21 ..... at Vermont
J27 ..... at Army
J31 ..... Yale
F1 ..... Brown
F7 ..... at Princeton
F8 ..... at Pennsylvania
F14 ..... at Columbia
F15 ..... at Cornell
F21 ..... Pennsylvania
F22 ..... Princeton
F28 ..... at Brown
M1 ..... at Yale

DAVIDSON

N23 .... at Fairleigh Dickinson
N27 ..... Lynchburg
N29 ..... at Wake Forest
D2 ..... Mississippi
D5 ..... SMU
D7 .... University of the South
D11 ..... at Duke
D14 ..... UNC Charlotte
D21 ..... at New Hampshire
J5 ..... Connecticut College
J8 ..... Marshall
J11 ..... at Georgia Southern
J13 ..... Western Carolina
J18 ..... UT-Chattanooga
J20 ..... at Appalachian State
J22 ... at East Tennessee State
J27 ..... at The Citadel
F1 ... Virginia Military Institute
F3 ..... at Marshall
F6 ..... Siena
F8 ..... Furman
F10 ..... East Tennessee State
F15 ..... at Furman
F17 . at Virginia Military Institute
F22 ..... Appalachian State

DAYTON

N30 ..... Florida A&M
D4 ..... Miami of Ohio
D7 ..... Delaware State
D11 ..... at Louisville
D20 ..... Alabama State
D22 ..... Morehead State
D27 ..... Marquette
D30 ..... DePaul
J4 ..... at Rhode Island
J7 ..... Xavier
J9 ..... at Wright State
J11 ..... at La Salle
J13 ..... at Temple
J18 ..... George Washington
J25 ..... Fordham
J27 ..... Southern
F1 ..... at Virginia Tech
F4 ..... St. Joseph's
F8 ..... at St. Bonaventure
F12 ..... at Xavier
F15 ..... Virginia Tech
F20 ..... La Salle
F23 ..... Massachusetts
F26 ..... Duquesne
M1 ..... at George Washington

DELAWARE

N22 ..... Delaware State
N26 ..... Rider
N29-D1 ... San Juan Shootout
D4 ..... at Bucknell
D6 ..... Northeastern
D8 ..... Boston University
D11 ..... at St. Joseph's
D20 ..... Washington (Md.)
D22 ..... Widener
D30 ..... at Virginia
J3 ..... at Marshall
J5 ..... Towson State
J7 ..... at Hofstra
J10 ..... Hartford
J12 ..... Vermont
J16 ..... at New Hampshire
J18 ..... at Maine
J21 ..... Drexel
J24 ..... at Boston University
J26 ..... at Northeastern
J31 ..... at Drexel
F2 ..... Hofstra
F7 ..... at Hartford
F9 ..... at Vermont
F13 ..... Maine
F15 ..... New Hampshire
F22 ..... at Towson State

DELAWARE STATE

N22 ..... at Delaware
N25 ..... West Virginia
D2 ..... at Tulsa
D4 ..... at Oklahoma
D7 ..... at Dayton
D19 ..... at Houston
D21 ..... at Wagner
D23 ..... at Wyoming
J7 ..... Md.-Eastern Shore
J11 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
J13 ..... at Florida A&M
J18 ..... at Morgan State
J20 ..... at Howard
J22 ..... Hampton
J25 ..... North Carolina A&T
J27 ..... South Carolina State
F5 ..... Coppin State
F8 ..... at North Carolina A&T
F10 ..... South Carolina State
F12 ..... at Coppin State
F15 ..... at Md.-Eastern Shore
F17 ..... Howard
F20 ..... Morgan State
F22 ..... Bethune-Cookman
F24 ..... Florida A&M

DePAUL

N23 ..... Eastern Illinois
N30 ..... at Georgetown
D4 ..... Illinois State*
D7 ..... Northwestern
D10 ..... Indiana
D15 ..... at St. Joseph's
D18 ..... Louisiana Tech
D21 ..... at Niagara
D23 ..... Montana State†
D28 ..... at Miami (Fla.)
D30 ..... at Dayton
J4 ..... Temple
J9 ..... at Marquette
J11 ..... South Florida
J15 ..... Memphis
J18 ..... at Houston
J21 ..... at Southern Miss
J26 ..... Marquette
J28 ..... at Louisville
F1 ..... at Cincinnati
F4 ..... UNC Charlotte
F8 ..... at UAB
F16 ..... at Saint Louis
F19 ..... Tulane
F22 ..... Cincinnati
M1 ..... Saint Louis
*St. Louis
†Hamilton, Ont.

DETROIT

N23 ..... Wayne State
N26 ..... at Bowling Green
N29-D1 ... United Tip-Off Cl.
D5 ..... at Michigan
D14 ..... Michigan State
D17 ..... at Central Michigan
D21 ..... Iona
D23 ..... at Western Michigan
D27-28 ... Cable Car Classic
J2 ..... Wright State
J9 ..... at Wis.-Milwaukee
J11 ..... Wis.-Green Bay
J16 ..... Loyola of Chicago
J18 ..... Illinois-Chicago
J23 ..... at Cleveland State
J25 ..... at Northern Illinois
J30 ..... at Wright State
F1 ..... at Butler
F6 ..... Wis.-Milwaukee
F8 ..... at Illinois-Chicago
F13 ..... at Loyola of Chicago
F16 ..... Wis.-Green Bay
F20 ..... Cleveland State
F22 ..... Northern Illinois

DRAKE

N24 ..... at Colorado
N30 ..... Eastern Michigan
D3 ..... Iowa
D5 ..... at Liberty
D7 ..... at Samford
D11 ..... at Iowa State
D21 ..... at SW Missouri St.
D31 ..... at Baylor
J4 ..... Loyola of Chicago
J8 ..... Indiana State
J12 ..... SW Missouri St.
J16 ..... at Evansville
J18 ..... at Indiana State
J22 ..... at Wichita State
J25 ..... Northern Iowa
J30 ..... Evansville
F1 ..... at Southern Illinois
F3 ..... Illinois State
F6 ..... at Creighton
F8 ..... Southern Illinois
F10 ..... Wichita State
F13 ..... at Bradley
F15 ..... at Illinois
F17 ..... Creighton
F22 ..... at Northern Iowa
F24 ..... Bradley

DREXEL

N20 ..... at Evansville*
D3 ..... Monmouth
D6 ..... at New Hampshire
D8 ..... at Maine
D12 ..... at Massachusetts
D14 ..... at La Salle
D21 ..... at St. Joseph's
D23 ..... Lehigh
D28-29 ... Franklin Life Classic
J2 ..... Hartford
J4 ..... Vermont
J7 ..... Towson State
J10 ..... at Northeastern
J12 ..... at Boston University
J15 ..... at Pennsylvania
J18 ..... at Hofstra
J21 ..... at Delaware
J24 ..... Maine
J26 ..... New Hampshire
J31 ..... Delaware
F2 ..... at Towson State
F6 ..... Northeastern
F8 ..... Boston University
F16 ..... Hofstra
F20 ..... at Hartford
F22 ..... at Vermont
*Preseason NIT

DUKE

N20 ..... St. Joseph's*
D2 ..... Lehigh
D5 ..... Florida State
D8 ..... Michigan
D11 ..... Davidson
D14 ..... at Villanova
D22 ..... Army
D30 ..... Western Carolina
J2 ..... South Carolina State
J5 ..... at Georgia Tech
J7 ..... at Clemson
J11 ..... Wake Forest
J13 ..... Campbell
J15 ..... at UNC Greensboro
J18 ..... Virginia
J21 ..... at N.C. State

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES

J26 . . . . . at Maryland
J29 . . . . . North Carolina
F2 . . . . . Georgia Tech
F5 . . . . . at Wake Forest
F8 . . . . . N.C. State
F11 . . . . . at Virginia
F15 . . . . . at Florida State
F18 . . . . . Clemson
F23 . . . . . at UCLA
F27 . . . . . Maryland
M2 . . . . . at North Carolina
*Preseason NIT

DUQUESNE

N27 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
N30 . . . . . Akron
D4 . . . . . at Western Kentucky
D7 . . . . . Florida
D10 . . . . . at Coppin State
D14 . . . . . Illinois State
D21 . . . . . Pittsburgh
D28 . . . . . at Ohio U.
D30 . . . . . West Virginia
J4 . . . . . Radford
J6 . . . . . Virginia Tech
J11 . . . . . George Washington
J16 . . . . . Rhode Island
J18 . . . . . at La Salle
J21 . . . . . at St. Joseph's
J25 . . . . . at Xavier
J30 . . . . . Dayton
F1 . . . . . at Fordham
F6 . . . . . at Massachusetts
F9 . . . . . Temple
F13 . . . . . La Salle
F17 . . . . at George Washington
F20 . . . . . Xavier
F23 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
F26 . . . . . at Dayton
M1 . . . . . St. Bonaventure

EAST CAROLINA

N23 . . . . . at Fairfield
N26 . . . . at Appalachian State
N30 . . . . . Boston University
D2 . . . . . at Campbell
D4 . . . . . Jacksonville State
D14 . . . . . SW Louisiana
D17 . . . . . at Georgia
D19 . . . . . St. Joseph's
D28 . . . . . Armstrong State
J2 . . . . . William & Mary
J4 . . . . . American
J6 . . . . . George Mason
J11 . . . . . at Old Dominion
J15 . . . . at Va. Commonwealth
J18 . . . . . Richmond
J22 . . . . . James Madison
J25 . . . . . at UNC Wilmington
J29 . . . . . Old Dominion
F1 . . . . . at George Mason
F3 . . . . . at American
F10 . . . . . at Jacksonville State
F12 . . . . . Va. Commonwealth
F15 . . . . . at James Madison
F17 . . . . . at Richmond
F22 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
F24 . . . . . at William & Mary

EASTERN ILLINOIS

N23 . . . . . at DePaul
N30. . Washington & Jefferson
D2 . . . . . Western Illinois
D4 . . . . . Indiana State
D7 . . . . . Elmhurst College
D13-14 . . . . . Indiana Classic
D21 . . . . . at Saint Louis
J2 . . . . . at Austin Peay
J4 . . . . . at Tennessee State
J9 . . . . . Murray State
J11 . . . . . Morehead State
J13 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
J18 . . . . . at Tennessee Tech
J20 . . . . . at Middle Tennessee
J25 . . . . at Southeast Missouri
J30 . . . . . UT-Martin
F1 . . . . . Austin Peay
F3 . . . . . Tennessee State
F8 . . . . . at Eastern Kentucky
F10 . . . . . at Morehead State
F13 . . . . . at UT-Martin
F15 . . . . . Middle Tennessee
F17 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
F20 . . . . . at Murray State
F22 . . . . . Southeast Missouri

EASTERN KENTUCKY

N25 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
N28 . . . . . West Virginia State
D2 . . . . . at Wright State
D6 . . . . . Dayton
D9 . . . . . Loyola of Chicago
D13 . . . . . at Louisville
D17 . . . . . at Central Florida
D20 . . . . . Oakland City
D27-28 . . . . Iona-Pepsi Classic
J3 . . . . . Morehead State
J6 . . . . . Southeast Missouri
J10 . . . . . Morehead State
J13 . . . . . at Murray State
J15 . . . . . at UT-Martin
J20 . . . . . Austin Peay
J22 . . . . . Middle Tennessee
J27 . . . . . at Tennessee State
J29 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
F5 . . . . . at Southeast Missouri
F10 . . . . . UT-Martin
F12 . . . . . Murray State
F17 . . . . . at Middle Tenn. St.
F19 . . . . . at Austin Peay
F24 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
F26 . . . . . Tennessee State

EASTERN MICHIGAN

N23 . . . . . Oakland
N26 . . . . . St. Joseph's
N30 . . . . . at Drake
D7 . . . . . at Jackson State
D13-14 . . . . . Carrier Classic
D19 . . . . . at Cincinnati
D28 . . . . . Hawaii-Hilo*
D29 . . . . . Idaho*
D30 . . . . . Liberty*
J4 . . . . . Kent
J8 . . . . . Central Michigan
J13 . . . . . Toledo
J16 . . . . . Boise State
J19 . . . . . Bowling Green
J22 . . . . . at Western Michigan
J25 . . . . . Ball State
J29 . . . . . at Akron
F1 . . . . . art Central Michigan
F3 . . . . . at Ohio U.
F6 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
F8 . . . . . at Toledo
F12 . . . . . Ohio U.
F15 . . . . . At Bowling Green
F19 . . . . . Western Michigan
F22 . . . . . at Ball State
F24 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
F26 . . . . . Akron
M1 . . . . . at Kent
*Hilo, Hawaii

EASTERN WASHINGTON

N22-23 . . . . . Lobo Classic
N26 . . . . . Western Montana
N30 . . . . . at San Diego State
D4 . . . . . UC Irvine
D7 . . . . . Washington State
D13 . . . at Sam Houston State
D17 . . . . . Santa Clara
D21 . . . . . Gonzaga
D28 . . . . . at Washington
J2 . . . . . at Northern Arizona
J4 . . . . at Cal State Northridge
J9 . . . . . Cal State Sacramento
J11 . . . . . Weber State
J16 . . . . . Montana State
J18 . . . . . Montana
J22 . . . . . at Weber State
J25 . . . . . at Portland State
J31 . . . . . Portland State
F6 . . . . . at Idaho State
F8 . . . . at Cal State Sacramento
F13 . . . . . Cal State Northridge
F15 . . . . . Northern Arizona
F20 . . . . . at Montana State
F22 . . . . . at Montana
F27 . . . . . Idaho State

EAST TENNESSEE STATE

N23 . . . . . UNC Asheville
N26 . . . . . at Michigan State
N30 . . . . . Lees-McRae
D5 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
D14 . . . . . at Tennessee State
D17 . . . . . Wofford
D19 . . . . . Bluefield College
D22-23. . Iowa State Holiday Cl.
D30 . . . . . Radford
D31 . . . . . at Tennessee
J6 . . . . . at Georgia Southern
J11 . . . . . The Citadel
J18 . . . . . Furman
J20 . . . . . at Virginia Military
J23 . . . . . Davidson
J25 . . . . . at Wofford
J27 . . . . . at Appalachian State
J29 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
F1 . . . . . Marshall
F3 . . . . . at Western Carolina
F8 . . . . . UT-Chattanooga
F10 . . . . . at Davidson
F15 . . . . . Appalachian State
F17 . . . . . at Marshall
F23 . . . . . Virginia Military

EVANSVILLE

N20 . . . . . Drexel*
D1 . . . . . at UT-Martin
D3 . . . . . Robert Morris
D7 . . . . . at Western Michigan
D14 . . . . . Butler
D17. . . . . Michigan State
D21 . . . . . at Indiana
D29 . . . . . Vanderbilt
J2 . . . . . Wichita State
J4 . . . . . at Illinois State
J7 . . . . . at Southern Illinois
J11 . . . . . at Bradley
J16 . . . . . Drake
J19 . . . . . Illinois State
J22 . . . . . at Indiana State
J25 . . . . . Creighton
J27 . . . . . Northern Iowa
J30 . . . . . at Drake
F2 . . . . . at Creighton
F5 . . . . . Bradley
F8 . . . . . SW Missouri St.
F11 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
F15 . . . . . at Wichita State
F17 . . . . . at SW Missouri St.
F22 . . . . . Southern Illinois
F24 . . . . . Indiana State
*Preseason NIT

FAIRFIELD

N23 . . . . . East Carolina
N26 . . . . . at Colgate
N30 . . . . . Central Michigan
D3 . . . . . at Wagner
D6-7 . . . . . Met Life Classic
D21 . . . . . at Connecticut
D31 . . . . . at Southern Utah
J6 . . . . . Canisius
J8 . . . . . at Fordham
J11 . . . . . Central Connecticut
J18 . . . . . at Iona
J20 . . . . . at Siena
J24 . . . . . St. Peter's
J26 . . . . . Siena
J29 . . . . . at Manhattan
J31 . . . . . Loyola (Md.)
F5 . . . . . at St. Peter's
F8 . . . . . at Canisius
F10 . . . . . at Niagara
F15 . . . . . Manhattan
F18 . . . . . Iona
F21 . . . . . Niagara
F23 . . . . . at Loyola (Md.)

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON

N23 . . . . . Davidson
N26 . . . . . at Hartford
N30 . . . . . at Rhode Island
D7 . . . . . Indiana State
D11 . . . . . at Iona
D21 . . . . . at St. John's
D28 . . . . . St. Peter's
J4 . . . . . Mount St. Mary's
J6 . . . . . Rider
J9 . . . . . at St. Francis (Pa.)
J11 . . . . . at Robert Morris
J15 . . . . . Marist
J18 . . . . . at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J20 . . . . . at Long Island U.
J23 . . . . . Wagner
J25 . . . . . Monmouth
F1 . . . . . at Mount St. Mary's
F3 . . . . . at Rider
F6 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
F8 . . . . . Robert Morris
F12 . . . . . at Marist
F15. . . . . st. Francis (N.Y.)
F17 . . . . . Long Island U.
F20 . . . . . at Wagner
F22 . . . . . at Monmouth

FLORIDA

N22 . . . . . Central Florida
N25 . . . . . Bethune-Cookman
N29-D1 . . . San Juan Shootout
D4. . . . . Texas
D7 . . . . . at Duquesne
D10 . . . . . South Florida
D14 . . . . . Stetson
D21 . . . . . Florida State*
D28-30 . . . . Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J5 . . . . . Arkansas
J8. . . . . at Louisiana State
J11 . . . . . at Auburn
J15 . . . . . South Carolina
J18 . . . . . Alabama
J22 . . . . . at Georgia
J25 . . . . . at Tennessee
J29 . . . . . Kentucky
F1 . . . . . Vanderbilt
F3 . . . . . Jacksonville
F8 . . . . . at South Carolina
F12 . . . . . at Mississippi State
F15 . . . . . at Kentucky
F19 . . . . . Tennessee
F23 . . . . . Mississippi
F26 . . . . . Georgia
M1 . . . . . at Vanderbilt
*Orlando

FLORIDA A&M

N22. . . . Auerbach Colonial Cl.
N27. . . . . at UAB
N30. . . . . at Dayton
D2 . . . . . at Xavier
D7 . . . . . at South Alabama
J4 . . . . . at Hampton
J11 . . . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
J13 . . . . . Delaware State
J18 . . . . . North Carolina A&T
J20 . . . . . South Carolina State
J23 . . . . . at Howard
J25 . . . . . at Coppin State
J27 . . . . . at Morgan State
F1 . . . . . at South Carolina State
F3 . . . . . at North Carolina A&T
F5 . . . . . Hampton
F8 . . . . . Bethune-Cookman
F13 . . . . . Howard
F15 . . . . . Coppin State
F17 . . . . . Morgan State
F22 . . . . . at Md.-Eastern Shore
F24 . . . . . at Delaware State
M1 . . . . . at Bethune-Cookman

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

N22 . . . . at North Carolina State
N25 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
N27 . . . . . Hofstra
N30. . . . . Thomas
D2 . . . . . at Florida State
D4 . . . . . at South Florida
D14 . . . . . at Robert Morris
D28. . . . . Lehigh
D30 . . . . . Fordham
J2 . . . . . Centenary
J4 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
J6 . . . . . at Winthrop
J9. . . . . Mercer
J11 . . . . . Georgia State
J16 . . . . . at Charleston
J18 . . . . . at Campbell
J23 . . . . . Central Florida
J25 . . . . . Stetson
J30 . . . . . Florida International
F1 . . . . . at Jacksonville State
F3. . . . . at Samford
F8 . . . . . at Florida International
F13 . . . . . Campbell
F15. . . . . Charleston
F17 . . Nova Southeastern (Fla.)
F20 . . . . . at Stetson
F22 . . . . . at Central Florida

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL

N22. . . . . at Liberty
N25 . . . . . Hofstra
N30-D1 . . Summit Bank Classic
D3 . . . . . at Fordham
D7 . . . . . Alabama
D14 . . . . . at Eastern Kentucky
D20 . . . . . at Mississippi
D28 . . . . . Butler
D30 . . . . . Virginia Military
J2 . . . . . SE Louisiana
J4. . . . . at Centenary
J9 . . . . . Georgia State
J11 . . . . . Mercer
J16 . . . . . at Campbell
J18 . . at College of Charleston
J23 . . . . . Stetson
J25 . . . . . Central Florida
J30 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
F1 . . . . . at Samford
F3 . . . . . at Jacksonville State
F8 . . . . . Florida Atlantic
F13 . . . College of Charleston
F15 . . . . . Campbell
F20 . . . . . at Central Florida
F22 . . . . . at Stetson

FLORIDA STATE

N22 . . . . . SW Louisiana
N29 . . . . . Rice
D2. . . . . Florida Atlantic
D5 . . . . . at Duke
D14 . . . . . at Jacksonville
D18. . . . . Tennessee State
D21. . . . . Florida*
D28. . . . . Marist
D30 . . . . . Butler
J4 . . . . . North Carolina State
J8 . . . . . Virginia
J11. . . . . Clemson
J15 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
J18 . . . . . Seton Hall
J22 . . . . . North Carolina
J25 . . . . . at Wake Forest
J29 . . . . . Maryland
F1 . . . . . at Virginia
F6 . . . . . North Carolina
F9 . . . . . Georgia Tech
F13 . . . . . at Maryland
F15 . . . . . Duke
F19 . . . . . Alabama State
F23. . . . . at Clemson
F26 . . . at North Carolina State
M1 . . . . . Wake Forest
*Orlando

FORDHAM

N26. . . . . at Columbia
N30. . . . . Holy Cross
D3. . . . . Florida International
D6 . . . . . at Seton Hall
D15 . . . . . at Manhattan
D18 . . . . . Iona
D28 . . . . . at Jacksonville
D30 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
J4 . . . . at George Washington
J8 . . . . . Fairfield
J11 . . . . . Xavier
J18 . . . . at St. Bonaventure
J23 . . . . . Temple
J25 . . . . . at Dayton
J29 . . . St. Bonaventure
F1 . . . . . Duquesne
F3 . . . . . Massachussetts
F6 . . . . . at St. Joseph's
F8 . . . . . Virginia Tech
F11 . . . . . at Rhode Island
F16 . . . . . St. Joseph's
F20 . . . . at Massachussetts
F24 . . . . . at Temple
F27 . . . . . at La Salle
M1 . . . . . Rhode Island

FRESNO STATE

N22. . . . . Pacific
N26 . . . . . Santa Clara
N29-30. . . Coors Light Classic
D10 . . . . . at Massachusetts
D14. . . . . at Texas
D21. . . . . Texas Tech*
D23 . . . . . St. Mary's
D28 . . . . . at Louisiana State
D30-J1. . . . San Juan Classic
J6. . . . . at Rice
J11 . . . . . San Jose State
J18 . . . . . Air Force
J20 . . . . . UNLV
J23 . . . . . at Colorado State
J25 . . . . . at Wyoming
J30 . . . . . San Diego State
F1 . . . . . Hawaii
F6 . . . . . at San Jose State
F8. . . . . Rice
F13 . . . . . at Air Force
F17 . . . . . at UNLV
F20 . . . . . Wyoming
F22 . . . . . Colorado State
F27 . . . . . at Hawaii
M1 . . . . . San Diego State
*Las Vegas

FURMAN

N22 . . . . . at Georgia
N25 . . . . . Stetson
N30 . . North Carolina Wesleyan
D4 . . . . . at Clemson
D7 . . . . . Erskine
D14 . . . . . at Saint Louis
D16 . . . . Charleston Southern
D21 . . . . . at Coastal Carolina
D23 . . . . . South Carolina State
D30 . . . . . at South Carolina
J4 . . . . . at Wofford
J9 . . . . . UT-Chattanooga
J11 . . . . . at Marshall
J13 . . . . . Appalachian State
J18 . . . at East Tennessee State
J20 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
J22 . . . . . Wofford
J25 . . . . . Virginia Military
J27 . . . . . at Western Carolina
F1 . . . . . at The Citadel
F3 . . . . . Georgia Southern
F8 . . . . . at Davidson
F10 . . . . . at Georgia Southern
F15 . . . . . Davidson
F17 . . . . . Western Carolina
F22. . . . . The Citadel

GEORGE MASON

N23 . . . . . Alabama State
N30 . . . . . Virginia
D3 . . . . . Morehead State
D7 . . . . . Colorado
D10. . . . . Long Beach State
D14 . . . . . at Ohio State
D20 . . . . . St. Francis
D22 . . . . . Cal Poly-SLO
D29 . . . . . at Akron
J2 . . . . . Va. Commonwealth
J4 . . . . . at UNC Willmington
J6 . . . . . at East Carolina
J8. . . . . Old Dominion
J13 . . . . . at James Madison
J15 . . . . . Richmond
J18 . . . . . at American
J25 . . . . . William & Mary
J29 . . . . at Va. Commonwealth
F1 . . . . . East Carolina
F3 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
F5 . . . . . at Richmond
F8 . . . . . James Madison
F12 . . . . . at Alabama State
F15 . . . . . at William & Mary
F22 . . . . . at Old Dominion
F24 . . . . . American

GEORGETOWN

N23 . . . . . at Cleveland State
N26 . . . . . Alabama State
N30 . . . . . DePaul
D2 . . . . . Seton Hall
D4. . . . . Massachusetts*
D7 . . . . . at Rutgers
D10. . . . . Delaware State
D18 . . . . . St. Leo
D21. . . . . Morgan State
D28. . . . . Pacific†
J2 . . . . . at West Virginia
J4 . . . . . Miami (Fla.)
J7 . . . . . Notre Dame
J11 . . . . . Connecticut
J13. . . . . at Boston College
J18 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
J21. . . . . St. John's
J25 . . . . . Pittsburgh
J27 . . . . . Villanova
F1. . . . . at St. John's
F3 . . . . . at Connecticut
F8 . . . . . at Syracuse
F12. . . . . Providence
F19 . . . . . at Pittsburgh
F22 . . . . . at Memphis
F26 . . . . . Rutgers
M2 . . . . . at Providence
*Chicago
†Halifax, Nova Scotia.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

N22-23 . . Auerbach Colonial Cl.
N26. . . . . South Florida
N30. . . . . Texas Tech
D2. . . . . at American
D8-9. . . Franklin Natl. Bank Cl.
D11 . . . . . at Kansas
D30 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
J4 . . . . . Fordham
J6 . . . . . at St. Bonaventure
J11 . . . . . at Duquesne
J15. . . . . St. Joseph's
J18 . . . . . at Dayton
J23 . . . . . Xavier
J25 . . . . . La Salle
J30. . . . . Massachusetts
F1 . . . . . at La Salle
F4 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
F11. . . . . Old Dominion
F15. . . . . at Xavier
F17. . . . . Duquesne
F20 . . . . . Virginia Tech
F22. . . . . at Temple
F26 . . . . . at Rhode Island
M1 . . . . . Dayton

GEORGIA

N22 . . . . . Furman
N26. . . . . Georgia State
N29. . . . . Georgia Southern
D3 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
D7 . . . . . Appalachian State
D14 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
D17 . . . . . East Carolina
D21. . . . . Brigham Young
D23 . . . . . Colorado
D27-30 . . . Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J5. . . . . at Mississippi
J8. . . . . at Vanderbilt
J14 . . . . . Kentucky
J18 . . . . . at South Carolina
J22 . . . . . Florida
J25. . . . . Auburn
J29 . . . . . at Tennessee
F1 . . . . . at Kentucky
F5. . . . . at Alabama
F8 . . . . . Mississippi State
F12 . . . . . South Carolina
F15 . . . . . at Arkansas
F19 . . . . . Vanderbilt
F22. . . . . Louisiana State
F26 . . . . . at Florida
M1. . . . . Tennessee

GEORGIA SOUTHERN

N23 . . . . . at Indiana State
N26 . . . . . Emmanuel
N29 . . . . . at Georgia
D2. . . . . Voorhees
D10 . . . . . at Texas A&M
D14. . . . . Mercer
D19 . . . . . Florida A&M
D21. . . . . Georgia State
D29-30. . . MVP Holiday Classic
J2 . . . . . at Coastal Carolina
J6 . . . . . East Tennessee State
J11 . . . . . Davidson
J13 . . . . . at Virginia Military
J15 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
J18. . . . . at Appalachian State
J20. . . . . Marshall
J25. . . . . The Citadel
J27 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
F1 . . . . . Western Carolina
F3 . . . . . at Furman
F8 . . . . . at Marshall
F10 . . . . . Furman
F15. . . . . at The Citadel
F17 . . . . . UT-Chattanooga
F22 . . . . . at Western Carolina

GEORGIA STATE

N22 . . . . . Southern Wesleyan
N26 . . . . . at Georgia
D1 . . . . . at Tennessee
D7 . . . . . at Auburn
D11. . . . . Covenant College
D14 . . . . . at Troy State
D16 . . . . . at Winthrop
D21. . . . . at Georgia Southern
D30 . . . . . Troy State
J2 . . . . . Campbell
J4 . . . . . Charleston
J9 . . . . . at Florida International
J11 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
J13. . . . . UNC Asheville
J16 . . . . . Stetson
J18 . . . . . at Central Florida
J23. . . . . Samford
J25. . . . . Jacksonville State
J30 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
F1. . . . . at Centenary
F3 . . . . . at Mercer
F6 . . . . . SE Louisiana
F8 . . . . . Centenary
F15. . . . . Mercer
F20. . . . . at Jacksonville State
F22. . . . . at Samford

GEORGIA TECH

N22 . . . . . Wofford
N26. . . . . Morgan State
N29. . . . . Radford
D3 . . . . . Georgia
D7 . . . . . Temple*
D12. . . . . at Maryland
D21. . . . . Kentucky
D26-28. . ECAC Holiday Festival
D31 . . . . . UNC Greensboro
J5 . . . . . Duke
D8 . . . . . Wake Forest
J11 . . . . . at Louisville
J15. . . . . Florida State
J18 . . . . . at North Carolina
J22 . . . . . at Virginia
J25 . . . . . North Carolina State
J30. . . . . at Clemson
F2 . . . . . at Duke
F6 . . . . . Virginia
F9. . . . . at Florida State
F15 . . . . . North Carolina
F19 . . . . . Maryland
F22. . . . . at North Carolina State
F25. . . . . at Wake Forest
*Atlantic City, N.J.

GONZAGA

N23 . . . . . at Southern Utah
N26 . . . . . St. Martin's College
N30 . . . . . Washington State
D3 . . . . . Central Washington
D6-7 . . . Bank One-Foothills Cl.
D11 . . . . . Montana State
D14 . . . . . Montana
D21. . . at Eastern Washington
D27-28 . . . Albertson's Classic
J9 . . . . . Fullerton State
J9 . . . . . Santa Clara
J11 . . . . . St. Mary's
J16 . . . . . at San Diego
J18. . . . . at San Francisco
J23 . . . . . Loyola Marymount
J25. . . . . Pepperdine
J31. . . . . at Pepperdine
F1 . . . . . at Loyola Marymount
F5. . . . . Portland
F8. . . . . at Portland
F13. . . . . San Francisco
F15 . . . . . San Diego
F21. . . . . at St. Mary's
F22. . . . . at Santa Clara

GRAMBLING STATE

N22 . . . . . Lobo Classic
N26 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
N29 . . . . . at South Alabama
D1 . . . . . at Alabama
D3 . . . . . Tougaloo
D6-7 . . . Hawkeye Invitational
D14. . . . . Wiley
D16 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
D19 . . . . . Northwestern State
J4 . . . . . at Southern
J6 . . . . . at Alcorn State
J11 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
J13 . . . . . Texas Southern
J18. . . . . at Jackson State
J20 . . . . . at Alabama State
J25. . . . . Mississippi Valley
F1 . . . . . Southern
F3. . . . . Alcorn State
F8 . . . . . at Prairie View A&M
F10. . . . . at Texas Southern
F15. . . . . Jackson State
F17 . . . . . Alabama State
F22. . . . . at Mississippi Valley

HAMPTON

N25 . . . . . William & Mary
N27 . . . . . Campbell
D2 . . . . . at Manhattan
D4. . . . . at Iona
D16. . . . . Liberty
D18 . . . . . at James Madison
D21 . . . . . at UNC Greensboro
D27-28. UNO Christmas Classic
J2 . . . . . Bethune Cookman
J4. . . . . Florida A&M
J7 . . . . . at South Carolina State
J11 . . . . . Coppin State
J18. . . . . at Coppin State
J22 . . . . . at Delaware
J25 . . . . . Morgan State
J27 . . . . . at Howard
J30 . . . . . North Carolina A&T
F3 . . . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
F5. . . . . at Florida A&M
F8 . . . . . Howard
F10 . . . . . at Morgan State
F13. . . . . South Carolina State
F18 . . . . . at Md.-Eastern Shore
F20 . . . . . at North Carolina A&T
F26 . . . . . at Bethune Cookman
M1 . . . . . Delaware State

HARTFORD

N22. . . . . at Yale
N26 . . . . . Fairleigh Dickinson
D3 . . . . . St. Francis
D7 . . . . . Vermont
D11. . . . . at Siena
D13. . . . . Miami (Fla.)
D21. . . . . St. Peter's
D31. . . . . at Holy Cross
J3 . . . . . at Drexel
J5. . . . . at Hofstra
J7 . . . . . Maine
J10 . . . . . at Delaware
J12 . . . . . at Towson State
J16. . . . . Boston University
J19 . . . . . Northeastern
J21. . . . . New Hampshire
J25. . . . . at Vermont
J30 . . . . . at New Hampshire
F1. . . . . at Maine
F6 . . . . . Delaware
F8 . . . . . Towson State
F13 . . . . . at Northeastern
F15 . . . . . at Boston University
F20 . . . . . Drexel
F22. . . . . Hofstra

HARVARD

N26 . . . . . at Lafayette
N30 . . . . . New Hampshire
D2 . . . . . Babson
D4 . . . . . at Army
D7 . . . . . Holy Cross
D10 . . . . . Boston University
D17 . . . . . Dartmouth
D20 . . . . . at Colgate
D22 . . . . . at Vermont
D27-28 . . . UNO Christmas Cl.
J2 . . . . . at Navy
J6 . . . . . at Dartmouth
J10 . . . . . Columbia
J11 . . . . . Cornell
J28 . . . . . Lehigh
J31 . . . . . Brown
F1 . . . . . Yale
F7 . . . . . at Pennsylvania
F8 . . . . . at Princeton
F14 . . . . . at Cornell
F15 . . . . . at Columbia
F21 . . . . . Princeton
F22 . . . . . Pennsylvania
F28 . . . . . at Yale
M1 . . . . . at Brown

HAWAII

N26 . . . . . Texas-Pan American
N29-D1 . . . . . United Tipoff Cl.
D6-7 . . . . . Hawaii Invitational
D14-15 . . . Hawaii-Nike Festival
D27-30 . . . Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J4 . . . . . New Mexico
J9 . . . . . at Air Force
J11 . . . . . at UNLV
J16 . . . . . Colorado State
J18 . . . . . Wyoming
J25 . . . . . at San Diego State
J30 . . . . . at San Jose State
F1 . . . . . at Fresno State
F6 . . . . . UNLV
F8 . . . . . Air Force
F13 . . . . . at Wyoming
F15 . . . . . at Colorado State
F19 . . . . . San Diego State
F22 . . . . . at New Mexico
F27 . . . . . Fresno State
M1 . . . . . San Jose State

HOFSTRA

N22 . . . . . Stony Brook
N25 . . . at Florida International
N27 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
N30 . . . . . at St. John's
D6 . . . . . at Maine
D8 . . . . . at New Hampshire
D14 . . . . . at Xavier
D22 . . . . . at Fordham
D26-28 . . ECAC Holiday Festival
J2 . . . . . Vermont
J4 . . . . . Hartford
J7 . . . . . Delaware
J10 . . . . . at Boston University
J12 . . . . . at Northeastern
J18 . . . . . Drexel
J21 . . . . . at Towson State
J24 . . . . . New Hampshire
J26. . . . . Maine
J31 . . . . . Towson State
F2 . . . . . at Delaware
F6 . . . . . Boston University
F8 . . . . . Northeastern
F16 . . . . . at Drexel
F20 . . . . . at Vermont
F22 . . . . . at Hartford

HOLY CROSS

N22-23 . . . . Auerbach Colonial Cl.
N26. . . . . Yale
N30 . . . . . at Fordham
D4. . . . . Dartmouth
D7 . . . . . at Harvard
D10 . . . . . at Brown
D21 . . . . . Boston College
D27-28 . . . UNO Christmas Cl.
D31. . . . . Hartford
J2 . . . . . at La Salle
J8 . . . . . Siena
J11 . . . . . at Army
J15 . . . . . Colgate
J18 . . . . . at Lehigh
J22 . . . . . at Lafayette
J25. . . . . Bucknell
J29 . . . . . at Navy
F5 . . . . . Army
F8. . . . . at Colgate
F10 . . . . . at New Hampshire
F12 . . . . . Lehigh
F15 . . . . . Lafayette
F18. . . . . at Bucknell
F22 . . . . . Navy

HOUSTON

N23 . . . . . Arkansas-Pine Bluff
N27 . . . . . Houston Baptist
N30. . . . . Texas-San Antonio
D4. . . . . Tulsa
D7 . . . . . at Mississippi
D13-14 . . . . Cougar Classic
D19. . . . . Delaware State
D21 . . . . . Creighton
D28. . . . at Northeast Louisiana
D30. . . . . McNeese State
J4 . . . . . at Creighton
J11 . . . . . UAB
J15 . . . . . at Louisville
J18 . . . . . DePaul
J22 . . . . . South Florida
J25. . . . . at Saint Louis
J29 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
F6 . . . . . at Southern Miss
F9 . . . . . UNC Charlotte
F12 . . . . . Memphis
F15 . . . . . Louisville
F18. . . . . at Cincinnati
F23 . . . . . Tulane
F26 . . . . . at Memphis
M2 . . . . . at Marquette

HOWARD

N26 . . . . . at Maryland
N30 . . . . . Morehouse
D3. . . . . Mount St. Mary's
D7. . . . . at Liberty
D14. . . . . American
D17. . . . . Barton
D27-28 . . . Golden Bear Classic
J11 . . . . at South Carolina State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

J13 . . . at North Carolina A&T
J18 . . . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
J20 . . . . . Delaware State
J23 . . . . . Florida A&M
J25 . . . . . Bethune-Cookman
J27 . . . . . Hampton
J30 . . . . . Coppin State
F1 . . . . . at Md.-Eastern Shore
F3 . . . . . at Morgan State
F8 . . . . . at Hampton
F10 . . . . . at Coppin State
F13 . . . . . at Florida A&M
F15 . . . . at Bethune-Cookman
F17 . . . . . at Delaware State
F22 . . . . . South Carolina State
F24 . . . . . North Carolina A&T
M1 . . . . . Morgan State

IDAHO

N24 . . . . . at Purdue
N27 . . . . . Idaho State
N30 . . . . . Simon Fraser
D3 . . . . . at Washington
D5 . . . . . at Idaho State
D8 . . . . . St. Martin's
D11 . . . . . Lewis & Clark
D14 . . . . at Washington State
D23 . . . . . Western Baptist
D28 . . . . . Liberty*
D29 . . . . . Eastern Michigan*
D30 . . . . . Hawaii-Hilo*
J6 . . . . . Southern Utah
J9 . . . . . Nevada
J11 . . . . . Utah State
J16 . . . . . at Pacific
J18 . . . . . Boise State
J23 . . . . . New Mexico State
J25 . . . . . at North Texas
J30 . . . . . Cal State Fullerton
F1 . . . . . UC Irvine
F6 . . . . . at UC Santa Barbara
F8 . . . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
F11 . . . . . Washington State
F13 . . . . . North Texas
F15 . . . . . New Mexico State
F20 . . . . . at Utah State
F22 . . . . . at Nevada
F27 . . . . . Long Beach State
M1 . . . . . Boise State
*Hilo, Hawaii

IDAHO STATE

N27 . . . . . at Idaho
N30 . . . . . Pacific
D2 . . . . . Boise State
D5 . . . . . Idaho
D10 . . . . at Texas-San Antonio
D27-28 . . Albertson's Holiday Cl.
J2 . . . . . Montana
J4 . . . . . Montana State
J9 . . . . . at Weber State
J11 . . . . . at Portland State
J16 . . . . at Northern Arizona
J18 . . . Cal State Sacramento
J23 . . . . Cal State Northridge
J25 . . . . . Northern Arizona
J31 . . . . . at Montana
F1 . . . . . at Montana State
F6 . . . . . Eastern Washington
F8 . . . . . Portland State
F12 . . . . . Weber State
F15 . . . at Cal State Sacramento
F18 . . . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
F22 . . . . . Southern Utah
F27 . . . . at Eastern Washington
M1 . . . . at Cal State Northridge

ILLINOIS

N22 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
N25 . . . . . Va. Commonwealth
N29-D1 . . Big Island Invitational
D6-7 . . . . . Illini Classic
D11 . . . . . Chicago State
D14 . . . . . Coppin State
D21 . . . . . UCLA
D28 . . . . . Missouri*
J3 . . . . . at Minnesota
J6 . . . . . Michigan State
J13 . . . . . Indiana
J18 . . . . . at Iowa
J20 . . . . . at Purdue
J24 . . . . . Ohio State
J27 . . . . . at Northwestern
F3 . . . . . Wisconsin
F8 . . . . . at Penn State
F14 . . . . . Northwestern
F17 . . . . . at Ohio State
F20 . . . . . Purdue
F24 . . . . . Iowa
F28 . . . . . at Indiana
M2 or 3 . . . . . Michigan
M6 . . . . . at Michigan State
M9 . . . . . Minnesota
*St. Louis

ILLINOIS-CHICAGO

N22 . . . . . at Illinois
D1 . . . . . at Texas A&M
D5 . . . . . at Michigan State
D7 . . . . . Chicago State
D14 . . . . . at Valparaiso
D17 . . . . . at NE Illinois
D21 . . . . . Grambling
D23 . . . . . at Illinois State
D28 . . . . . at Oral Roberts
J2 . . . . . Northern Illinois
J4 . . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
J9 . . . . . Butler
J16 . . . . . at Wright State
J18 . . . . . at Detroit
J23 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
J25 . . . . . Cleveland State
J30 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
F1 . . . . . Wisconsin Green-Bay
F3 . . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
F6 . . . . . Wright State
F8 . . . . . Detroit
F12 . . . . . at Butler
F17 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
F19 . . . . . Loyola of Chicago
F22 . . . . . at Cleveland State
F24 . . . . . Oral Roberts

ILLINOIS STATE

N24 . . . . . at Pittsburgh
N30 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
D4 . . . . . DePaul*
D7 . . . . . Ohio U.
D14 . . . . . at Duquesne
D18 . . . . . at Northwestern
D21 . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
D23 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
D29 . . . . . at Creighton
J4 . . . . . Evansville
J9 . . . . . Northern Iowa
J12 . . . . . at Southern Illinois
J16 . . . . . Indiana State
J19 . . . . . at Evansville
J22 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
J25 . . . . . Wichita State
J27 . . . . . Southwest Missouri
F1 . . . . . Bradley
F3 . . . . . at Drake
F8 . . . . . at Wichita State
F10 . . . . at SW Missouri St.
F13 . . . . . Southern Illinois
F15 . . . . . Drake
F18 . . . . . at Indiana State
F22 . . . . . at Bradley
F24 . . . . . Creighton
*St. Louis

INDIANA

N15 . . . . . Connecticut*
N20 . . . . . Princeton†
D2 . . . . . at Notre Dame
D7 . . . . . Kentucky‡
D10 . . . . . at DePaul
D13-14 . . . . . Indiana Classic
D21 . . . . . Evansville*
D23 . . . . . Butler
D27-28 . . . . Hoosier Classic
J2 . . . . . Michigan State
J4 . . . . . at Wisconsin
J8 . . . . . Minnesota
J15 . . . . . at Northwestern
J18 . . . . . Purdue
J21 . . . . . Michigan
J26 . . . . . at Penn State
J30 . . . . . at Ohio State
F2 . . . . . Illinois
F4 . . . . . at Iowa
F8 . . . . . Ohio State
F11 . . . . . Penn State
F16 . . . . . at Michigan
F18 . . . . . at Purdue
F22 . . . . . Northwestern
M1 . . . . . at Minnesota
M5 . . . . . Wisconsin
M8 . . . . . at Michigan State
*Indianapolis
†Preseason NIT
‡Louisville, Ky.

INDIANA STATE

N23 . . . . . Georgia Southern
N27 . . . . . Butler
D4 . . . . . at Eastern Illinois
D7 . . . . . at Fairleigh Dickinson
D19 . . . . . Middle Tenn. St.
D22 . . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
D30 . . . . . at Ball State
J4 . . . . . Wichita State
J8 . . . . . at Drake
J11 . . . . . Northern Iowa
J13 . . . . . at Bradley
J16 . . . . . at Illinois State
J18 . . . . . Drake
J22 . . . . . Evansville
J25 . . . . . at Southern Illinois
J30 . . . . . at Wichita State
F1 . . . . . at SW Missouri St.
F3 . . . . . Southern Illinois
F8 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
F10 . . . . . at Creighton
F13 . . . . . SW Missouri St.
F15 . . . . . Bradley
F18 . . . . . Illinois State
F22 . . . . . Creighton
F24 . . . . . at Evansville

IONA

N20 . . . . . Seton Hall*
N30 . . . . . American
D4 . . . . . Hampton
D7 . . . . . Wagner
D11 . . . . . Fairleigh Dickinson
D14 . . . . . at Cornell
D18 . . . . . at Fordham
D21 . . . . . at Detroit
D27-28 . . . . Iona-Pepsi Classic
J2 . . . . . at Rhode Island
J8 . . . . . at Loyola (Md.)
J12 . . . . . at Siena
J15 . . . . . Cleveland State
J18 . . . . . Fairfield
J21 . . . . . St. Peter's
J23 . . . . . at Colgate
J26 . . . . . Niagara
J31 . . . . . at Canisius
F2 . . . . . at Niagara
F6 . . . . . Manhattan
F9 . . . . . Loyola (Md.)
F12 . . . . . at Manhattan
F15 . . . . . at St. Peter's
F18 . . . . . at Fairfield
F21 . . . . . Canisius
F23 . . . . . Siena
*Preseason NIT

IOWA

N22 . . . . . at Western Illinois
N25-27 . . . . Maui Invitational
D3 . . . . . at Drake
D6-7 . . . . Hawkeye Invitational
D10 . . . . . Northern Iowa
D14 . . . . . Iowa State
D21 . . . . . Missouri
D27 . . . . . Austin Peay
D29 . . . . Cal State Northridge
J2 . . . . . Northwestern
J4 . . . . . at Penn State
J7 . . . . . at Purdue
J11 . . . . . Wisconsin
J15 . . . . . Ohio State
J19 . . . . . at Michigan
J23 . . . . . at Minnesota
J29 . . . . . Illinois
F4 . . . . . Indiana
F9 . . . . . at Illinois
F12 . . . . . at Michigan State
F15 . . . . . Minnesota
F20 . . . . . Michigan
F22 . . . . . at Ohio State
F26 . . . . . at Wisconsin
M1 or M2 . . . . . Purdue
M5 . . . . . Penn State
M8 . . . . . at Northwestern

IOWA STATE

N26 . . . . . Alcorn State
D1 . . . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
D5-6 . . . . . Cyclone Challenge
D11 . . . . . Drake
D14 . . . . . at Iowa
D21-22 . . Iowa State Holiday Cl.
D30 . . . . Texas-Pan American
J4 . . . . . at Missouri
J7 . . . . . Marquette
J11 . . . . . Oklahoma
J15 . . . . . at Kansas
J18 . . . . . at Colorado
J22 . . . . . Kansas State
J25 . . . . . Texas Tech
J29 . . . . . at Nebraska
F1 . . . . . at Texas
F5 . . . . . Baylor
F9 . . . . . Kansas
F12 . . . . . Missouri
F15 . . . . . at Kansas State
F19 . . . . . at Texas
F22 . . . . . Nebraska
F26 . . . . . Colorado
M1 . . . . . at Oklahoma State

JACKSON STATE

N22 . . . . . at Arkansas
N26 . . . . . at Southern Miss
N30 . . . . . SW Louisiana
D2 . . . . . at Memphis
D4 . . . . . Tougaloo
D7 . . . . . Eastern Michigan
D14 . . . . . at Arizona
D17 . . . . . at UCLA
D20 . . . . . at Arizona State
D23 . . . . . at New Mexico
D28 . . . . . at McNeese State
J2 . . . . . Tennessee State
J4 . . . . . at Prairie View A&M
J8 . . . . . at Texas Southern
J11 . . . . . Alcorn State
J13 . . . . . Southern
J18 . . . . . Grambling State
J20 . . . . . Mississippi Valley
J25 . . . . . at Alabama State
F1 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
F3 . . . . . Texas Southern
F8 . . . . . at Alcorn State
F10 . . . . . at Southern
F15 . . . . . at Grambling
F17 . . . . . at Mississippi Valley
F22 . . . . . Alabama State

JACKSONVILLE

N22 . . . . . at Arizona State
N26 . . . . . at UNLV
N30 . . . . . Arkansas State
D7 . . . . . at South Florida
D14 . . . . . Florida State
D18 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
D21 . . . . . Western Kentucky
D28 . . . . . Fordham
D30 . . . . . Monmouth
J2 . . . . . New Orleans
J4 . . . . . SW Louisiana
J9 . . . . . at Arkansas State
J11 . . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock
J13 . . . . . South Alabama
J16 . . . . . at Louisiana Tech
J18 . . . . . at Lamar
J25 . . . . at Texas-Pan American
J30 . . . . at Western Kentucky
F1 . . . . . Lamar
F5 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
F8 . . . . . Texas-Pan American
F13 . . . . . at New Orleans
F15 . . . . . at South Alabama
F17 . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
F22 . . . . . Louisiana Tech

JACKSONVILLE STATE

N23 . . . . . Mississippi Valley
N30 . . . . . Alabama State
D2 . . . . . Marshall
D4 . . . . . at East Carolina
D6 . . . . . Baptist Christian
D14 . . . . at Mississippi Valley
D20-21 . . . . . UAB Classic
J2 . . . . . at Central Florida
J4 . . . . . at Stetson
J9 . . . . . at Charleston
J11 . . . . . Campbell
J16 . . . . . Centenary
J18 . . . . . SE Louisiana
J23 . . . . . at Mercer
J25 . . . . . at Georgia State
J30 . . . . . Samford
F1 . . . . . Florida Atlantic
F3 . . . . . Florida International
F8 . . . . . at Samford
F10 . . . . . East Carolina
F13 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
F15 . . . . . at Centenary
F20 . . . . . Georgia State
F22 . . . . . Mercer
F26 . . . . . at Alabama State

JAMES MADISON

N23 . . . . . Bowling Green
N25 . . . . . Shippensburg
N30 . . . . . at Mississippi State
D7 . . . . . Washington
D14 . . . . . Montana State
D21 . . . . at Southern Illinois
D28 . . . . . at Towson State
D30 . . . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
J4 . . . . . at William & Mary
J8 . . . . . Va. Commonwealth
J11 . . . . . at American
J13 . . . . . George Mason
J18 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
J22 . . . . . at East Carolina
J25 . . . . . Old Dominion
J27 . . . . . at Richmond
J29 . . . . . American
F1 . . . . . UNC Charlotte
F5 . . . . . at Va. Commonwealth
F8 . . . . . at George Mason
F12 . . . . . at UNC Wilmington
F15 . . . . . East Carolina
F19 . . . . . William & Mary
F22 . . . . . Richmond
F24 . . . . . at Old Dominion

KANSAS

N22 . . . . . at Santa Clara
N25-27 . . . . Maui Invitational
D1 . . . . . San Diego
D4 . . . . . Cincinnati*
D7 . . . . . at UCLA
D11 . . . . George Washington
D15 . . . . . UNC Asheville
D21 . . . . North Carolina State
D30 . . . . . Washburn
J2 . . . . . Brown
J4 . . . . . at Kansas State
J6 . . . . . Texas
J9 . . . . . Niagara
J11 . . . . . at Baylor
J13 . . . . . Iowa State
J19 . . . . . at Connecticut
J22 . . . . . Texas A&M
J26 . . . . . at Colorado
J29 . . . . . at Texas Tech
F1 . . . . . Nebraska
F4 . . . . . at Missouri
F9 . . . . . at Iowa State
F12 . . . . . Oklahoma State
F15 . . . . . Colorado
F17 . . . . . Missouri
F22 . . . . . Kansas State
F24 . . . . . at Oklahoma
M2 . . . . . at Nebraska
*Chicago

KANSAS STATE

N22 . . . . . Mo.-Kansas City
N26 . . . . . UNC Asheville
N30 . . . . . Morgan State
D3 . . . . . Wichita State
D7 . . . . . at Bradley
D12 . . . . . Coppin State
D14 . . . . . Bethune Cookman
D21 . . . . . at Michigan State
D23 . . . . Arkansas-Pine Bluff
D29 . . . . . at Xavier
J4 . . . . . Kansas
J11 . . . . . Nebraska
J15 . . . . . at Colorado
J18 . . . . . at Iowa State
J22 . . . . . Missouri
J25 . . . . . at Nebraska
J29 . . . . . Texas Tech
F1 . . . . . at Texas A&M
F5 . . . . . at Oklahoma State
F8 . . . . . Oklahoma
F12 . . . . . at Texas
F15 . . . . . Baylor
F19 . . . . . at Kansas
F22 . . . . . Colorado
F26 . . . . . Iowa State

KENT

N23 . . . . . Ferris State
N30 . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
D3 . . . . . at Ohio State
D7 . . . . . SMU
D14 . . . . . at Cleveland State
D27-28 . . Olds Spartan Classic
J4 . . . . . at Eastern Michigan
J8 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
J11 . . . . . at Toledo
J13 . . . . . Ohio U.
J15 . . . . . at Bowling Green
J18 . . . . . Western Michigan
J22 . . . . . at Ball State
J25 . . . . . Akron
J29 . . . . . at Central Michigan
F1 . . . . . at Miami of Ohio
F5 . . . . . Toledo
F8 . . . . . at Ohio U.
F12 . . . . . Bowling Green
F15 . . . . . at Western Michigan
F19 . . . . . Ball State
F22 . . . . . at Akron
F26 . . . . . Central Michigan
M1 . . . . . Eastern Michigan

KENTUCKY

N15 . . . . . Clemson*
N27-30 . . Great Alaska Shootout
D3 . . . . . Purdue†
D7 . . . . . Indiana‡
D9 . . . . . Wright State
D14 . . . . . Notre Dame
D21 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
D23 . . . . . UNC Asheville
D28 . . . . . Ohio State§
D31 . . . . . at Louisville
J4 . . . . . Tennessee
J7 . . . . . Mississippi State
J9 . . . . . Canisius
J11 . . . . . at Mississippi
J14 . . . . . at Georgia
J18 . . . . . Auburn
J22 . . . . . at Vanderbilt
J26 . . . . . at Arkansas
J29 . . . . . at Florida
F1 . . . . . Georgia
F4 . . . . . at South Carolina
F6 . . . . . Western Carolina
F9 . . . . . Villanova
F12 . . . . . Louisiana State
F15 . . . . . Florida
F19 . . . . . at Alabama
F22 . . . . . at Vanderbilt
F25 . . . . . at Tennessee
M2 . . . . . South Carolina
*Indianapolis
†Chicago
‡Louisville, Ky.
§Cleveland

LAFAYETTE

N24 . . . . . at Dartmouth
N26 . . . . . Harvard
D1 . . . . . Brown
D3 . . . . . Princeton
D6-7 . . . . Pepsi-Marist Classic
D10 . . . . . Swarthmore
D20 . . . . . Haverford
D23 . . . . . at Maryland
D28 . . . . . at Tulane
D30 . . . . . at Louisiana State
J6 . . . . . at Cornell
J8 . . . . . at Lehigh
J13 . . . . . at Yale
J15 . . . . . Bucknell
J18 . . . . . at Navy
J20 . . . . . Pennsylvania
J22 . . . . . Holy Cross
J25 . . . . . Army
J29 . . . . . at Colgate
F1 . . . . . Lehigh
F8 . . . . . at Bucknell
F12 . . . . . Navy
F15 . . . . . at Holy Cross
F18 . . . . . at Army
F22 . . . . . Colgate

LAMAR

N23 . . . . . at Centenary
N25 . . . . . Angelo State
N27 . . . at North Carolina State
N30 . . . . . at Baylor
D7 . . . . . at Nicholls State
D14 . . . . . McNeese State
D18 . . . . . Mary Hardin-Baylor
D21 . . . . Southwest Texas State
D28 . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock
J2 . . . . . Western Kentucky
J4 . . . . . Louisiana Tech
J9 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
J11 . . . . . South Alabama
J16 . . . . at Western Kentucky
J18 . . . . . Jacksonville
J23 . . . at Texas-Pan American
J25 . . . . at Louisiana Tech
J30 . . . . . Arkansas Tech
F1 . . . . . at Jacksonville
F3 . . . . . Texas-Pan American
F5 . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
F8 . . . . . New Orleans
F13 . . . . . at South Alabama
F15 . . . . . at New Orleans
F20 . . . . . SW Louisiana
F22 . . . . . at Arkansas State

LA SALLE

N30 . . . . . at Mount St. Mary's
D6-7 . . . . Hawkeye Invitational
D10 . . . . . American
D14 . . . . . Drexel
D22 . . . . . at Marquette
D28-29 . . . Golden Bear Classic
J4 . . . . . Holy Cross
J8 . . . . . Massachusetts
J11 . . . . . Dayton
J18 . . . . . Duquesne
J20 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
J23 . . . . . Pennsylvania
J25 . . . . at George Washington
J28 . . . . . at Temple
F1 . . . . . George Washington
F3 . . . . . Xavier
F6 . . . . . at Rhode Island
F10 . . . . . Virginia Tech
F13 . . . . . at Duquesne
F15 . . . . . at St. Bonaventure
F20 . . . . . at Dayton
F22 . . . . . at Xavier
F27 . . . . . Fordham
M1 . . . . . St. Joseph's

LEHIGH

N22 . . . . . Vermont
N26 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
N30 . . . . . Cornell
D2 . . . . . at Duke
D4 . . . . . at Yale
D8 . . . . . Pennsylvania
D19 . . . . . at Princeton
D22 . . . . . at Drexel
D28 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
D30 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
J2 . . . . . at Niagara
J6 . . . . . Columbia
J8 . . . . . Lafayette
J11 . . . . . at Bucknell
J15 . . . . . Navy
J18 . . . . . Holy Cross
J22 . . . . . at Army
J25 . . . . . Colgate
J28 . . . . . at Harvard
F1 . . . . . at Lafayette
F5 . . . . . Bucknell
F8 . . . . . at Navy
F12 . . . . . at Holy Cross
F15 . . . . . Army
F17 . . . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
F19 . . . . . at Colgate

LIBERTY

N22 . . . . . Florida International
N25 . . . . . at Maine
N29-30 . . . Coors Light Classic
D5 . . . . . Drake
D7 . . . . . Howard
D14 . . . . . Randolph Macon
D16 . . . . . at Hampton
D18 . . . . . at Virginia
D28 . . . . . Idaho*
D29 . . . . . Hawaii-Hilo*
D30 . . . . . Eastern Michigan*
J2 . . . . . at TCU
J7 . . . . . Montreat
J11 . . . . . at UNC Asheville
J13 . . . . at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J18 . . . . . Winthrop
J20 . . . . . UNC Greensboro
J25 . . . . Charleston Southern
J27 . . . . . Coastal Carolina
F1 . . . . . Radford
F8 . . . . . at Winthrop
F10 . . . . . UNC Asheville
F15 . . . . . at Coastal Carolina
F17 . . . at Charleston Southern
F20 . . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
F22 . . . . . at Radford
*Hilo, Hawaii

LONG BEACH STATE

N25 . . . . . Wyoming
N29 . . . . at Southern California
D3 . . . . . Oregon State
D6-7 . . Boilermaker Invitational
D10 . . . . . at George Mason
D21 . . . . . at Montana
D28 . . . . . at St. Mary's
D30 . . . . . Bethune-Cookman
J9 . . . . . at Cal State Fullerton
J11 . . . . . at UC Irvine
J16 . . . . . Boise State
J18 . . . . . at Pacific
J23 . . . . . UC Santa Barbara
J25 . . . . . Cal Poly-SLO
J30 . . . . at New Mexico State
F1 . . . . . at North Texas
F6 . . . . . Nevada
F8 . . . . . Utah State
F13 . . . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
F15 . . . . at UC Santa Barbara
F20 . . . . . UC Irvine
F22 . . . . Cal State Fullerton
F27 . . . . . at Idaho
M1 . . . . . Pacific

LONG ISLAND U.

N23 . . . . . at St. John's
N27 . . . . . at Providence
D7 . . . . . at Ohio State
D10 . . . . . at Xavier
D14 . . . . . at Niagara
D20-21 . . . . . UAB Classic
D28 . . . . . at Minnesota
J4 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
J6 . . . . . Robert Morris
J9 . . . . . at Mount St. Mary's
J11 . . . . . Rider
J15 . . . . . Wagner
J18 . . . . . at Marist
J20 . . . . . Fairleigh Dickinson
J23 . . . . . Monmouth
J25 . . . . at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F1 . . . . . at St. Francis (Pa.)
F3 . . . . . at Robert Morris
F6 . . . . . Mount St. Mary's
F8 . . . . . at Rider
F12 . . . . . at Wagner
F15 . . . . . Marist
F17 . . . . at Fairleigh Dickinson
F20 . . . . . at Monmouth
F22 . . . . . St. Francis (N.Y.)

LOUISIANA STATE

N22 . . . . . Troy State
N25-27 . . . . Maui Invitational
D3 . . . . . Samford
D7 . . . . . Louisville*
D15 . . . . . Michigan†
D18 . . . . . at North Carolina
D21 . . . . . Oral Roberts
D23 . . . . Prairie View A&M
D28 . . . . . Fresno State
D30 . . . . . Lafayette
J4 . . . . . at Mississippi State
J8 . . . . . Florida
J11 . . . . . at Arkansas
J15 . . . . . Vanderbilt
J19 . . . . . at Tennessee
J22 . . . . . Auburn
J25 . . . . . at Alabama
J29 . . . . Mississippi State
F1 . . . . . South Florida
F5 . . . . . Mississippi
F8 . . . . . at Auburn
F12 . . . . . at Kentucky
F15 . . . . . Alabama
F22 . . . . . at Georgia
F26 . . . . . at Mississippi
M1 . . . . . Arkansas
*Los Angeles
†Detroit

LOUISIANA TECH

N30 . . . . . Ohio Northern
D5 . . . . at Northwestern State
D7 . . . . . at TCU
D9 . . . . . Southeast Missouri
D13-14 . . . . . Indiana Classic
D17 . . . . . Tarleton State
D19 . . . . . at DePaul
D22 . . . . . New Orleans
J2 . . . . . at Texas-Pan American
J4 . . . . . at Lamar
J9 . . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock
J11 . . . . . at Arkansas State
J16 . . . . Jacksonville State
J18 . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
J22 . . . . . at New Orleans
J25 . . . . . Lamar
J27 . . . . Texas-Pan American
J30 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
F1 . . . . . Western Kentucky
F3 . . . . . at South Alabama
F8 . . . . . Arkansas State
F15 . . . . at Western Kentucky
F17 . . . . . SW Louisiana
F20 . . . . . South Alabama
F22 . . . . . at Jacksonville

LOUISVILLE

N29-D1 . . Big Island Invitational
D7 . . . . . Louisiana State*
D11 . . . . . Dayton
D14 . . . . . at Purdue
D16 . . . . . Wright State
D21 . . . . . at Arkansas
D23 . . . . . Tennessee State
D29 . . . . . Boston College
D31 . . . . . Kentucky
J3 . . . . . at UAB
J6 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
J11 . . . . . Georgia Tech
J15 . . . . . Houston
J19 . . . . . at Texas
J23 . . . . . at Memphis
J25 . . . . . UCLA
J28 . . . . . DePaul
J30 . . . . . Cincinnati
F2 . . . . . at Temple
F6 . . . . . Saint Louis
F9 . . . . . at Memphis
F15 . . . . . at Houston
F17 . . . . . South Florida
F20 . . . . . at Marquette
F22 . . . . at Southern Mississippi
F26 . . . . . UNC Charlotte
M1 . . . . . at Tulane
*Los Angeles

LOYOLA OF CHICAGO

N23 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
N26 . . . . . at St. Peter's
N30 . . . . . Kent
D4 . . . . . at Chicago State
D7 . . . . . Robert Morris
D14 . . . . at Cal State Fullerton
D22 . . . . . Indiana State
D30 . . . . . Notre Dame
J4 . . . . . at Drake
J9 . . . . . Northern Illinois
J11 . . . . . at Butler
J16 . . . . . at Detroit
J18 . . . . . at Cleveland
J23 . . . . . Wright State
J25 . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
J30 . . . . . Wis.-Green Bay
F1 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
F3 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
F6 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
F8 . . . . . Butler
F13 . . . . . Detroit
F15 . . . . . Cleveland State
F20 . . . . at Illinois-Chicago
F22 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
F24 . . . . . at Wright State

LOYOLA (MD.)

N23 . . . . at Md.-Baltimore Co.
N30 . . . . . at Penn State
D4 . . . . . American
D7 . . . . . Mount St. Mary's
D10 . . . . . at Towson State
D21 . . . . . at Notre Dame
D27-28 . Sports Foundation Cl.
J2 . . . . . at Virginia
J4 . . . . . at UNC Greensboro
J8 . . . . . Iona
J11 . . . . . at St. Peter's
J15 . . . . . Siena
J18 . . . . . at Niagara
J20 . . . . . at Canisius
J22 . . . . . UNC Greensboro
J26 . . . . . Manhattan
J31 . . . . . at Fairfield
F2 . . . . . at Manhattan
F9 . . . . . at Iona
F11 . . . . . at Rutgers
F13 . . . . . Canisius
F16 . . . . . Niagara
F18 . . . . . at Siena
F21 . . . . . St. Peter's
F23 . . . . . Fairfield

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT

N26 . . . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
N30 . . . . Cal State Northridge
D2 . . . . at Southern California
D5 . . . . . Xavier
D7 . . . . . Cal State Fullerton
D14 . . . . at San Diego State
D18 . . . . . Northern Arizona
D23 . . . . . at Washington
D28 . . . . . Providence
D30 . . . . . Brown
J4 . . . . . at UC Santa Barbara
J10 . . . . . San Francisco
J11 . . . . . San Diego
J15 . . . . . Pepperdine
J18 . . . . . at Pepperdine
J23 . . . . . at Gonzaga
J25 . . . . . at Portland
J31 . . . . . Portland
F1 . . . . . Gonzaga
F7 . . . . . at Santa Cruz
F8 . . . . . at St. Mary's
F14 . . . . . St. Mary's
F15 . . . . . Santa Clara
F20 . . . . . at San Diego
F22 . . . . . at San Francisco

MAINE

N23 . . . . . Southern Maine
N25 . . . . . Liberty
N27-30 . Great Alaska Shootout
D3 . . . . . Husson College
D6 . . . . . Hofstra
D8 . . . . . Drexel
D13 . . . . . at Youngstown
D27-28 . . . . Bow Tie Classic
J2 . . . . . at Northeastern
J4 . . . . . at Boston U.
J7 . . . . . at Hartford
J11 . . . . . New Hampshire
J16 . . . . . Towson State
J18 . . . . . Delaware
J20 . . . . . at Saint Louis
J24 . . . . . at Drexel
J26 . . . . . at Hofstra
J30 . . . . . Vermont
F1 . . . . . Hartford
F5 . . . . . at Marquette
F8 . . . . . at New Hampshire
F13 . . . . . at Delaware
F15 . . . . . at Towson State
F17 . . . . . at Vermont
F20 . . . . . Northeastern
F23 . . . . . Boston U.

MANHATTAN

N23 . . . . . Marist
D1 . . . . . Hampton
D7 . . . . . Stanford*
D15 . . . . . Fordham
D19 . . . . at UNC Wilmington
D26-28 . . ECAC Holiday Festival
D31 . . . . . Fairleigh Dickinson
J6 . . . . . at Colgate
J12 . . . . . at Niagara
J14 . . . . . at Canisius
J19 . . . . . at St. Peter's
J24 . . . . . Niagara
J26 . . . . . at Loyola (Md.)
J29 . . . . . Fairfield
J31 . . . . . St. Peter's
F2 . . . . . Loyola (Md.)
F6 . . . . . at Iona
F10 . . . . . at Siena*
F12 . . . . . Iona
F15 . . . . . at Fairfield
F17 . . . . . at American
F21 . . . . . Siena
F23 . . . . . Canisius
*Sacramento, Calif.

MARIST

N23 . . . . . at Manhattan
N30 . . . . . Vermont
D6-7 . . . . Pepsi-Marist Classic
D22 . . . . . Siena

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULES

D30 ..... at Florida State
J2 ..... Army
J4 ..... at Monmouth
J6 ..... Mount St. Mary's
J9 ..... at Robert Morris
J11 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
J15 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
J18 ..... Long Island U.
J20 ..... at Rider
J23 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
J25 ..... at Wagner
F1 ..... Monmouth
F3 ..... at Mount St. Mary's
F6 ..... Robert Morris
F8 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
F12 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
F15 ..... at Long Island U.
F17 ..... Rider
F20 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F22 ..... Wagner

MARQUETTE

N24 ..... Wis.-Milwaukee
N29 ..... at Santa Clara
D6-7 ..... First Bank Classic
D14 ..... Wis.-Green Bay
D16 ..... Coastal Carolina
D19 ..... Appalachian State
D22 ..... La Salle
D27 ..... at Dayton
D31 ..... Wisconsin
J4 ..... Southern Miss
J7 ..... at Iowa State
J9 ..... DePaul
J12 ..... at Memphis
J18 ..... Saint Louis
J26 ..... at DePaul
J30 ..... at South Florida
F1 ..... Tulane
F5 ..... Maine
F8 ..... at Cincinnati
F15 ..... at UNC Charlotte
F17 ..... at UAB
F20 ..... Louisville
F25 ..... at Saint Louis
F27 ..... Cincinnati
M2 ..... Houston

MARSHALL

N25 ..... Gardner-Webb
N30 ..... at SW Louisiana
D2 ..... at Jacksonville State
D7 ..... at Radford
D14 ..... Morehead State
D17 ..... West Virginia*
D21 ..... UNC Asheville
D23 ..... UT Chatanooga
D28 ..... at Clemson
J3 ..... Delaware
J6 ..... at UNC Asheville
J8 ..... at Davidson
J11 ..... Furman
J13 ..... at The Citadel
J18 ..... Western Carolina
J20 ..... at Georgia Southern
J25 ..... Appalachian State
J27 ..... at Virginia Military
F1 ..... at East Tennessee State
F3 ..... Davidson
F8 ..... Georgia Southern
F10 ..... at Appalachian State
F15 ..... Virginia Military
F17 ..... East Tennessee State
F22 ..... at UT Chattanooga
*Charleston, W.Va.

MARYLAND

N26 ..... Howard
N30 ..... Towson State
D2 ..... Chicago State
D4 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
D8-9 ..... Franklin Natl. Bank Cl.
D12 ..... Georgia Tech
D21 ..... American
D23 ..... Lafayette
D27-30 ..... Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J4 ..... Virginia
J8 ..... at North Carolina
J11 ..... at North Carolina State
J15 ..... Clemson
J18 ..... at Wake Forest
J21 ..... Pennsylvania*
J26 ..... Duke
J29 ..... at Florida State
F1 ..... Wake Forest
F5 ..... North Carolina State
F8 ..... at Clemson
F13 ..... Florida State
F15 ..... Massachusetts†
F19 ..... at Georgia Tech
F22 ..... North Carolina
F26 ..... at Duke
M1 ..... at Virginia
*Baltimore
†Worchester, Mass.

MD.-BALTIMORE COUNTY

N23 ..... Loyola (Md.)
N26 ..... Towson State
D4 ..... at Maryland
D6 ..... Central Conn. St.
D11 ..... at Rutgers
D14 ..... at Rider
D23 ..... at Virginia
D30 ..... at James Madison
J4 ..... UNC Asheville
J6 ..... UNC Greensboro
J9 ..... at St. Peters
J11 ..... Radford
J13 ..... Liberty
J16 ..... at Charleston Southern
J18 ..... at Coastal Carolina
J22 ..... at Drexel
J25 ..... Winthrop
J29 ..... UNC Greensboro
F1 ..... at Winthrop
F3 ..... at Radford
F8 ..... Coastal Carolina
F12 ..... Bucknell
F15 ..... UNC Asheville
F17 ..... at Lehigh
F20 ..... at Liberty
F22 ..... Charleston Southern

MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE

N22 ..... St. Peter's
N25 ..... at New Mexico State
D1 ..... at Iowa State
D3 ..... Centenary
D7 ..... at UAB
D10 ..... Wilmington
D17 ..... Lincoln (Mo.)
D30 ..... at Syracuse
J7 ..... at Delaware State
J11 ..... at Florida A&M
J13 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
J16 ..... Morgan State
J18 ..... at Howard
J20 ..... Coppin State
J25 ..... South Carolina State
J27 ..... North Carolina A&T
J30 ..... at Morgan State
F1 ..... Howard
F3 ..... at Hampton
F8 ..... at South Carolina State
F10 ..... at North Carolina A&T
F15 ..... Delaware State
F18 ..... Hampton
F22 ..... Florida A&M
F24 ..... Bethune-Cookman
M1 ..... at Coppin State

MASSACHUSETTS

N25-27 ..... Maui Invitational
D4 ..... Georgetown*
D10 ..... Fresno State
D12 ..... Drexel
D14 ..... at Wake Forest
D20 ..... North Carolina†
D22 ..... at UNC-Wilmington
D27 ..... Connecticut
J2 ..... Davidson
J5 ..... St. Joseph's
J8 ..... at La Salle
J12 ..... Virginia Tech
J14 ..... at St. Bonaventure
J18 ..... Boston College
J21 ..... Rhode Island
J25 ..... at Temple
J30 ..... at George Washington
F1 ..... Xavier
F3 ..... at Fordham
F6 ..... Duquesne
F8 ..... at Rhode Island
F11 ..... St. Bonaventure
F15 ..... Maryland
F20 ..... Fordham
F23 ..... at Dayton
F25 ..... at St. Joseph's
M1 ..... Temple
*Chicago
†East Rutherford, N.J.

McNEESE STATE

N23 ..... at TCU
N26 ..... Mobile
N30 ..... Louisiana College
D3 ..... at Northern Arizona
D6-7 ..... Hawaii Invitational
D14 ..... at Lamar
D16 ..... Prairie View
D19 ..... at Arkansas
D28 ..... Jackson State
D30 ..... at Houston
J2 ..... at Southwest Texas St.
J4 ..... at Texas-San Antonio
J9 ..... UT Arlington
J13 ..... at Nicholls State
J16 ..... Northeast Louisiana
J18 ..... Northwestern State
J23 ..... at Stephen F. Austin
J25 ..... at Sam Houston State
J30 ..... at UT Arlington
F6 ..... Texas-San Antonio
F8 ..... Southwest Texas
F13 ..... at Northeast Louisiana
F15 ..... at Northwestern State
F20 ..... Sam Houston State
F22 ..... Stephen F. Austin
F25 ..... at Southern
M1 ..... Nicholls State

MEMPHIS

N23 ..... Wisconsin*
N30 ..... North Carolina State
D2 ..... Jackson State
D7 ..... Vanderbilt
D15 ..... at Tennessee
D18 ..... Northeast Louisiana
D21 ..... Texas Southern
D23 ..... Oklahoma
D27-30 ..... Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J4 ..... Detroit
J7 ..... South Florida
J9 ..... at UNC Charlotte
J12 ..... Marquette
J15 ..... at DePaul
J19 ..... UNC Charlotte
J23 ..... at Louisville
J25 ..... at UAB
J30 ..... Southern Miss
F1 ..... at Arkansas
F5 ..... at Vanderbilt
F9 ..... Louisville
F12 ..... at Houston
F16 ..... at Tulane
F19 ..... at Saint Louis
F22 ..... Georgetown
F26 ..... Houston
M1 ..... Cincinnati
*Ottawa

MERCER

D2 ..... North Georgia
D6-7 ..... Boilermaker Invitational
D14 ..... at Georgia Southern
D17 ..... Western Carolina
D19 ..... at Missouri
D31 ..... at Minnesota
J2 ..... Charleston
J4 ..... Campbell
J9 ..... at Florida Atlantic
J11 ..... at Florida International
J16 ..... Central Florida
J18 ..... at Stetson
J23 ..... Jacksonville State
J25 ..... Samford
J30 ..... at Centenary
F1 ..... at Southeastern
F3 ..... Georgia State
F6 ..... Centenary
F8 ..... SE Louisiana
F10 ..... Wofford
F15 ..... at Georgia State
F17 ..... at Wofford
F20 ..... at Samford
F22 ..... at Jacksonville State

MIAMI (FLA.)

N22 ..... Buffalo
N24 ..... Florida Atlantic
N29 ..... at UNLV
D3 ..... at St. John's
D7 ..... at Syracuse
D13 ..... Hartford
D18 ..... Jacksonville
D22 ..... at Tennessee
D28 ..... DePaul
D30 ..... Lehigh
F2 ..... at Boston College
J4 ..... at Georgetown
J8 ..... at Pittsburgh
J11 ..... at Villanova
J15 ..... Providence
J18 ..... Georgetown
J22 ..... Connecticut
F2 ..... at Rutgers
F5 ..... Pittsburgh
F8 ..... Rutgers
F10 ..... at Seton Hall
F15 ..... at Connecticut
F19 ..... Boston College
F22 ..... at St. John's
F25 ..... at Notre Dame
M1 ..... West Virginia

MIAMI OF OHIO

N23 ..... at Va. Commonwealth
N30 ..... at Xavier
D4 ..... Dayton
D6-7 ..... Dr Pepper Invitational
D10 ..... Eastern Kentucky
D14 ..... at Wright State
J4 ..... Akron
J8 ..... at Kent
J10 ..... at Cincinnati
J13 ..... Central Michigan
J15 ..... at Toledo
J18 ..... Ohio U.
J22 ..... at Bowling Green
J25 ..... Western Michigan
J29 ..... at Ball State
F1 ..... Kent
F6 ..... at Eastern Michigan
F8 ..... at Central Michigan
F12 ..... Toledo
F15 ..... at Ohio U.
F19 ..... Bowling Green
F22 ..... at Western Michigan
F24 ..... Eastern Michigan
F26 ..... Ball State
M1 ..... at Akron

MICHIGAN

N26 ..... Ball State
N30 ..... at Cleveland State
D2 ..... Bradley
D5 ..... Detroit
D8 ..... at Duke
D11 ..... at St. John's
D15 ..... Louisiana State*
D21 ..... Arizona*
D27-30 ..... Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J2 ..... Ohio State
J4 ..... at Northwestern
J9 ..... Illinois
J11 ..... at Minnesota
J16 ..... Purdue
J19 ..... Iowa
J21 ..... at Indiana
J25 ..... at Michigan State
J28 ..... at Penn State
F1 ..... Michigan State
F6 ..... at Wisconsin
F8 ..... Penn State
F16 ..... Indiana
F20 ..... at Iowa
F23 ..... at Purdue
F26 ..... Minnesota
M2 ..... at Illinois
M5 ..... Northwestern
M8 or 9 ..... at Ohio State
*Detroit

MICHIGAN STATE

N26 ..... East Tennessee State
D3 ..... Cleveland State
D5 ..... Illinois-Chicago
D14 ..... at Detroit
D17 ..... at Evansville
D21 ..... Kansas State
D27-28 ..... Olds Spartan Classic
J2 ..... at Indiana
J4 ..... Minnesota
J9 ..... at Wisconsin
J11 ..... Ohio State
J15 ..... at Penn State
J18 ..... Northwestern
J22 ..... Illinois
J25 ..... Michigan
J29 ..... at Purdue
F1 ..... at Michigan
F8 ..... Purdue
F12 ..... Iowa
F15 ..... at Illinois
F19 ..... at Northwestern
F22 ..... Penn State
F26 ..... at Ohio State
M1 ..... Wisconsin
M6 ..... at Minnesota
M8 ..... Indiana

MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE

N22-24 ..... Top of the World Cl.
N27 ..... Montreat
N30 ..... at New Orleans
D2 ..... Murray State
D7 ..... at Southern
D14 ..... UT-Chattanooga
D16 ..... Belmont
D19 ..... at Indiana State
D29 ..... Sue Bennett
J4 ..... at Eastern Kentucky
J6 ..... at Morehead State
J9 ..... Tennessee State
J11 ..... Tennessee Tech
J18 ..... Southeast Missouri
J20 ..... Eastern Illinois
J23 ..... at Austin Peay
J25 ..... at Murray State
J27 ..... at UT-Martin
J30 ..... Morehead State
F1 ..... at North Carolina
F3 ..... Eastern Kentucky
F6 ..... Austin Peay
F8 ..... at Tennessee Tech
F13 ..... at Tennessee State
F15 ..... at Eastern Illinois
F17 ..... at Southeast Missouri
F22 ..... UT-Martin

MINNESOTA

N22 ..... Cal State Sacramento
N23 ..... Stephen F. Austin
N26 ..... West Virginia
N29-D1 ..... San Juan Shootout
D15 ..... St. John's
D17 ..... at Rhode Island
D21 ..... at Nebraska
D23 ..... Alabama State
D28 ..... Long Island U.
D31 ..... Mercer
J2 ..... Wisconsin
J4 ..... at Michigan State
J8 ..... at Indiana
J11 ..... Michigan
J15 ..... at Illinois
J18 ..... at Ohio State
J22 ..... Iowa
J25 ..... Purdue
F1 ..... at Northwestern
F5 ..... Penn State
F12 ..... at Purdue
F15 ..... at Iowa
F19 ..... Ohio State
F22 ..... Illinois
F26 ..... at Michigan
M1 ..... Indiana
M5 ..... Michigan State
M9 ..... at Wisconsin

MISSISSIPPI

N23 ..... Portland State
N26 ..... Prairie View A&M
D2 ..... at Davidson
D7 ..... Houston
D14 ..... Wichita State
D17 ..... Stetson
D20 ..... Florida International
D27-28 ..... Lobo Invitational
D31 ..... Morgan State
J2 ..... at Arkansas
J5 ..... Georgia
J8 ..... Alabama
J11 ..... Kentucky
J15 ..... at Mississippi State
J18 ..... at Vanderbilt
J22 ..... Tennessee
J25 ..... at South Carolina
J29 ..... Arkansas
F1 ..... Auburn
F5 ..... at Louisiana State
F12 ..... at Alabama
F19 ..... Mississippi State
F23 ..... at Florida
F26 ..... Louisiana State
M1 ..... at Auburn

MISSISSIPPI STATE

N23 ..... Northwestern State
N26 ..... SE Louisiana
N30 ..... James Madison
D3 ..... Wake Forest*
D8-9 ..... Franklin Natl. Bank Cl.
D17 ..... Texas Southern
D18 or 19 ..... Old Dominion
D21 ..... at UNC Wilmington
D30-J1 ..... San Juan Classic
J4 ..... Louisiana State
J7 ..... at Kentucky
J11 ..... South Carolina
J15 ..... Mississippi
J21 ..... at Arkansas
J25 ..... Vanderbilt
J29 ..... at Louisiana State
F1 ..... Alabama
F5 ..... at Auburn
F8 ..... at Georgia
F12 ..... Florida
F15 ..... at Tennessee
F19 ..... at Mississippi
F23 ..... Arkansas
F26 ..... Auburn
M1 ..... at Alabama
*Chicago

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

N23 ..... at Jacksonville
N25 ..... Arkansas State
D3 ..... at Oklahoma State
D6-7 ..... Pizza Hut Classic
D14 ..... Jacksonville
D16 ..... at Arkansas Pine-Bluff
D19 ..... at Arkansas State
D23 ..... at Vanderbilt
D28 ..... at Tennesee State
J4 ..... at Alcorn State
J6 ..... at Southern
J11 ..... at Texas Southern
J13 ..... Prairie View A&M
J18 ..... Jackson State
J20 ..... Alabama State
J25 ..... at Grambling State
J27 ..... Arkansas-Pine Bluff
F1 ..... Alcorn State
F3 ..... Southern
F8 ..... at Texas Southern
F10 ..... at Prairie View
F15 ..... at Jackson State
F17 ..... at Alabama State
F22 ..... at Grambling

MISSOURI

N23 ..... Chicago State
N29-D1 ..... San Juan Shootout
D4 ..... Arkansas State
D7 ..... Arkansas
D14 ..... Southeast Missouri
D19 ..... Mercer
D21 ..... at Iowa
D28 ..... Illinois*
J4 ..... Iowa State
J6 ..... Colorado State
J11 ..... at Oklahoma State
J15 ..... Baylor
J18 ..... at Nebraska
J22 ..... Nebraska
J26 ..... at Texas
J28 ..... at Texas A&M
F1 ..... Kansas State
F4 ..... Kansas
F9 ..... Wake Forest
F12 ..... at Iowa State
F15 ..... Oklahoma
F17 ..... at Kansas
F22 ..... at Colorado
F25 ..... Texas Tech
M1 ..... at Kansas State
*St. Louis

MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

N22 ..... at Kansas State
N25 ..... at Creighton
N27 ..... SW Missouri St.
D3 ..... at Baylor
D7 ..... at Saint Louis
D11 ..... Nebraska
D14 ..... Monmouth
D20 ..... Texas A&M
D28 ..... Colorado
D30 ..... Northern Iowa
J2 ..... Western Illinois
J4 ..... Valparaiso
J6 ..... at Troy State
J11 ..... at Buffalo
J13 ..... at Youngstown State
J18 ..... at Chicago State
J20 ..... at NE Illinois
J27 ..... at Central Conn. St.
F1 ..... Troy State
F6 ..... Youngstown State
F8 ..... Buffalo
F10 ..... NE Illinois
F12 ..... Chicago State
F15 ..... Central Conn. St.
F22 ..... at Valparaiso
F24 ..... at Western Illinois

MONMOUTH

N24 ..... at Notre Dame
N30 ..... Manhattan
D3 ..... at Drexel
D7 ..... St. Peter's
D14 ..... Princeton
D27-28 ..... Sports Foundation Cl.
D30 ..... at Jacksonville
J4 ..... Marist
J6 ..... at Wagner
J9 ..... Rider
J11 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
J15 ..... at Mt. St. Mary's
J18 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
J20 ..... Robert Morris
J23 ..... at Long Island U.
J25 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
F1 ..... at Marist
F3 ..... Wagner
F6 ..... at Rider
F8 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F12 ..... Mt. St. Mary's
F15 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
F17 ..... at Robert Morris
F20 ..... Long Island U.
F22 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson

MONTANA

N22-24 ..... Top of the World Cl.
N30 ..... Cal State Sacramento
D3 ..... Cal State Fullerton
D6-7 ..... Missoulian/Coca-Cola Cl.
D10 ..... Washington State
D14 ..... at Gonzaga
D18 ..... Western Montana
D21 ..... Long Beach State
D28 ..... at Texas-Arlington
J2 ..... at Idaho State
J3 ..... at Weber State
J9 ..... Northern Arizona
J11 ..... Cal State Northridge
J16 ..... at Portland State
J18 ..... at Eastern Michigan
J23 ..... at Cal State Sacramento
J25 ..... Montana State
J29 ..... Weber State
J31 ..... Idaho State
F6 ..... Cal State Northridge
F8 ..... at Northern Arizona
F13 ..... Cal State Sacramento
F15 ..... at Oral Roberts
F20 ..... Portland State
F22 ..... Eastern Washington
M1 ..... at Montana State

MONTANA STATE

N24 ..... Simon Fraser
N29-D1 ..... Big Island Invitational
D5 ..... Rocky Mountain
D7 ..... Nevada
D11 ..... at Gonzaga
D14 ..... at James Madison
D19 ..... at Wyoming
D21 ..... Appalachian State
D23 ..... DePaul*
D28-29 ..... Bobcat Holiday Cl.
J2 ..... at Weber State
J4 ..... at Idaho State
J9 ..... Cal State Northridge
J10 ..... Northern Arizona
J16 ..... at Eastern Washington
J18 ..... at Portland State
J22 ..... at Cal State Sacramento
J25 ..... at Montana
J30 ..... Cal State Sacramento
F1 ..... Idaho State
F6 ..... at Northern Arizona
F8 ..... at Cal State Northridge
F14 ..... Weber State
F17 ..... at Southern Utah
F20 ..... Eastern Washington
F22 ..... Portland State
M1 ..... Montana
*Hamilton, Ontario

MOREHEAD STATE

N24 ..... at Tennessee
N30 ..... Asbury
D3 ..... at George Mason
D6-7 ..... Pizza Hut Classic
D14 ..... at Marshall
D22 ..... at Dayton
D23 ..... Marion
J4 ..... Tennessee Tech
J6 ..... Middle Tennessee
J11 ..... at Eastern Illinois
J13 ..... at Southeast Missouri
J16 ..... Eastern Kentucky
J18 ..... UT-Martin
J20 ..... Murray State
J25 ..... at Tennessee State
J27 ..... at Austin Peay
J30 ..... at Middle Tennessee
F3 ..... at Tennessee Tech
F8 ..... Southeast Missouri
F10 ..... Eastern Illinois
F13 ..... at Eastern Kentucky
F15 ..... at Murray State
F17 ..... at UT-Martin
F20 ..... Tennessee State
F22 ..... Austin Peay

MORGAN STATE

N26 ..... at Georgia Tech
N30 ..... at Kansas State
D7 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
D11 ..... at St. Bonaventure
D13 ..... at Buffalo
D21 ..... at Georgetown
D28 ..... at UCLA
D31 ..... at Mississippi
J11 ..... at North Carolina A&T
J13 ..... at South Carolina State
J16 ..... at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J18 ..... Delaware State
J23 ..... Bethune-Cookman
J25 ..... at Hampton
J27 ..... Florida A&M
J30 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
F1 ..... Coppin State
F3 ..... Howard
F8 ..... at Coppin State
F10 ..... Hampton
F13 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
F17 ..... at Florida A&M
F20 ..... at Delaware State
F22 ..... North Carolina A&T
F24 ..... South Carolina State
M1 ..... at Howard

MOUNT ST. MARY'S

N23 ..... at Penn State
N30 ..... La Salle
D3 ..... at Howard
D7 ..... at Loyola (Md.)
D21 ..... at Villanova
D23 ..... at Pittsburgh
D27-28 ..... Bow Tie Classic
J4 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
J6 ..... at Marist
J9 ..... Long Island U.
J11 ..... at Wagner
J15 ..... Monmouth
J18 ..... Rider
J20 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
J23 ..... at Robert Morris
J25 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
F1 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
F3 ..... Marist
F6 ..... at Long Island U.
F8 ..... Wagner
F12 ..... at Monmouth
F15 ..... at Rider
F17 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F20 ..... Robert Morris
F22 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)

MURRAY STATE

N23 ..... Belmont
N25 ..... Indiana-Purdue
D2 ..... at Middle Tennessee
D5 ..... Alcorn State
D7 ..... Campbellsville
D14 ..... at Arkansas State
D18 ..... at Saint Louis
D21 ..... Auburn*
D28 ..... at Alcorn State
J6 ..... at UT-Martin
J9 ..... at Eastern Illinois
J11 ..... Austin Peay
J13 ..... Tennessee State
J18 ..... at Eastern Kentucky
J20 ..... at Morehead State
J23 ..... Southeast Missouri
J25 ..... Middle Tennessee
J27 ..... Tennessee Tech
F1 ..... UT-Martin
F6 ..... at Southeast Missouri
F8 ..... at Tennessee State
F10 ..... at Austin Peay
F13 ..... at Tennessee Tech
F15 ..... Morehead State
F17 ..... Eastern Kentucky
F20 ..... Eastern Illinois
*Birmingham, Ala.

NAVY

N24 ..... Towson State
N26 ..... Pittsburgh
N30 ..... at Air Force
D3 ..... New Hampshire
D5 ..... at Virginia Military
D7 ..... at Wofford
D9 ..... Gettysburg
D21 ..... Dartmouth
D23 ..... at St. Bonaventure
D28 ..... at Stanford
D30 ..... at Rice
J2 ..... Harvard
J8 ..... at Army
J11 ..... at Colgate
J13 ..... William & Mary
J15 ..... at Lehigh
J18 ..... Lafayette
J22 ..... at Bucknell
J29 ..... Holy Cross
F1 ..... Army
F5 ..... Colgate
F8 ..... Lehigh
F12 ..... at Lafayette
F15 ..... Bucknell
F22 ..... at Holy Cross

NEBRASKA

N23 ..... at Texas
N26 ..... Weber State
N30 ..... Oregon State
D3 ..... Texas-San Antonio
D6-7 ..... Ameritas Classic
D11 ..... at Mo.-Kansas City
D14 ..... at Northern Iowa
D21 ..... Minnesota
D30-J1 ..... San Juan Classic
J4 ..... at Colorado
J8 ..... Creighton
J11 ..... Texas A&M
J15 ..... Kansas State
J18 ..... Missouri
J22 ..... at Missouri
J25 ..... at Oklahoma
J29 ..... Iowa State
F1 ..... at Kansas
F5 ..... Colorado
F8 ..... at Texas Tech
F10 ..... at Kansas State
F15 ..... Texas
F19 ..... at Baylor
F22 ..... at Iowa State
F26 ..... Oklahoma State
M2 ..... Kansas

NEVADA

N30 ..... Weber State
D3 ..... at Colorado State
D7 ..... at Montana State
D14 ..... UNLV
D16 ..... Oregon
D18 ..... Portland
D21-22 ..... Iowa State Holiday Cl.
D30 ..... Oklahoma State*
J2 ..... at Utah State
J9 ..... at Idaho
J11 ..... at Boise State
J16 ..... New Mexico State
J18 ..... North Texas
J23 ..... at UC Irvine
J25 ..... Utah State
J30 ..... UC Santa Barbara
F1 ..... Cal Poly-SLO
F6 ..... at Long Beach State
F8 ..... at Pacific
F13 ..... Cal State Fullerton
F20 ..... Boise State
F22 ..... Idaho
F27 ..... at North Texas
M1 ..... at New Mexico State
*Tulsa, Okla.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

N23 ..... Rider
N25 ..... at Boston College
N30 ..... at Harvard
D3 ..... at Navy
D6 ..... Drexel
D8 ..... Hofstra
D10 ..... at Notre Dame
D14 ..... at Dartmouth
D21 ..... Davidson
J2 ..... Boston University
J4 ..... at Northeastern
J7 ..... at Vermont
J11 ..... at Maine
J16 ..... Delaware
J18 ..... Towson State
J21 ..... at Hartford
F24 ..... at Hofstra
J26 ..... at Drexel
J30 ..... Hartford
F2 ..... Vermont
F8 ..... Maine
F10 ..... Holy Cross
F13 ..... at Towson State
F15 ..... at Delaware
F20 ..... at Boston University
F22 ..... Northeastern

NEW MEXICO

N22-23 ..... Lobo Classic
N27 ..... Centenary
N30 ..... Arizona
D4 ..... at Texas Tech
D7 ..... at New Mexico State
D13 ..... New Mexico State
D21 ..... Sam Houston State
D23 ..... Jackson State
D27-28 ..... Lobo Invitational
J4 ..... at Hawaii
J9 ..... TCU
J11 ..... SMU
J16 ..... at Rice
J18 ..... at Tulsa
J25 ..... Texas-El Paso
F1 ..... Utah
F3 ..... Brigham Young
F6 ..... at SMU
F8 ..... at TCU
F13 ..... Rice
F15 ..... Tulsa
F20 ..... at Texas-El Paso
F22 ..... Hawaii
F27 ..... at Brigham Young

NEW MEXICO STATE

N22 ..... Western New Mexico
N25 ..... Md.-Eastern Shore
N30 ..... Texas-El Paso
D4 ..... at Texas-El Paso
D7 ..... New Mexico
D13 ..... at New Mexico
D21 ..... Southern
D23 ..... Sam Houston
D27-28 ..... Cowboy Shootout
D30 ..... UNC Asheville
J9 ..... at Cal Poly-SLO
J11 ..... North Texas
J16 ..... at Nevada
J18 ..... at Utah State
J23 ..... Idaho
J25 ..... Boise State
J30 ..... Long Beach State
F1 ..... Pacific
F6 ..... at Cal State Fullerton
F8 ..... at UC Irvine
F13 ..... at Boise State
F15 ..... at Idaho
F20 ..... UC Santa Barbara
F22 ..... at North Texas
F27 ..... Utah State
M1 ..... Nevada

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

NEW ORLEANS
N30 . . . Middle Tenn. St.
D6-7 . . . Met Life Classic
D14 . . . Southern Miss
D18 . . . at Va. Commonwealth
D22 . . . at Louisiana Tech
D27-28 . . . UNO Christmas Cl.
J2 . . . at Jacksonville
J4 . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
J9 . . . Western Kentucky
J11 . . . Texas-Pan American
J13 . . . Tulane
J18 . . . Arkansas State
J20 . . . at South Alabama
J22 . . . Louisiana Tech
J25 . . . at Western Kentucky
J27 . . . at Arkansas State
J30 . . . South Alabama
F1 . . . SW Louisiana
F6 . . . at Texas-Pan American
F8 . . . at Lamar
F13 . . . Jacksonville
F15 . . . Lamar
F20 . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock
F22 . . . at SW Louisiana

NIAGARA
N23 . . . at Northeastern
N25 . . . at Bucknell
N30 . . . at Buffalo
D5 . . . at Robert Morris
D7 . . . at Canisius
D14 . . . Long Island U.
D18 . . . Buffalo
D21 . . . DePaul*
J2 . . . Lehigh
J4 . . . Appalachian State
J9 . . . at Kansas
J14 . . . St. John's*
J21 . . . at St. Bonaventure
J24 . . . at Manhattan
J26 . . . at Iona
J31 . . . Siena
F2 . . . Iona
F5 . . . Canisius
F8 . . . St. Peter's
F10 . . . Fairfield
F13 . . . at Siena
F16 . . . at Loyola
F21 . . . at Fairfield
F23 . . . at St. Peter's
*Buffalo, N.Y.

NICHOLLS STATE
N23 . . . Texas Tech
N27 . . . Loyola
N30 . . . Missouri Valley College
D7 . . . Lamar
D11 . . . at Southern Miss
D15 . . . at Vanderbilt
D18 . . . SE Louisiana
D21 . . . at South Alabama
D23 . . . at Notre Dame
D30 . . . at Tulane
J2 . . . at Texas-San Antonio
J4 . . . at Southwest Texas
J11 . . . Texas-Arlington
J13 . . . McNeese State
J16 . . . Northwestern State
J18 . . . Northeast Louisiana
J23 . . . at Sam Houston State
J25 . . . at Stephen F. Austin
F1 . . . at Texas-Arlington
F6 . . . Southwest Texas
F8 . . . Texas-San Antonio
F13 . . . at Northwestern State
F15 . . . at Northeast Louisiana
F20 . . . Stephen F. Austin
F22 . . . Sam Houston State
M1 . . . at McNeese State

NORTH CAROLINA
N22 . . . Arizona*
N25 . . . Richmond
N29 . . . Pittsburgh
D2 . . . Bethune-Cookman
D6-7 . . . Pepsi Challenge
D15 . . . at Virginia Military
D18 . . . at Louisiana State
D20 . . . Massachusetts†
D22 . . . at Princeton
J4 . . . at Wake Forest
J8 . . . Maryland
J11 . . . at Virginia
J15 . . . North Carolina State
J18 . . . Georgia Tech
J22 . . . at Florida State
J26 . . . Clemson
J29 . . . at Duke
F1 . . . Middle Tenn. St.
F6 . . . Florida State
F8 . . . Virginia
F12 . . . at North Carolina State
F15 . . . at Georgia Tech
F19 . . . Wake Forest
F22 . . . at Maryland
F26 . . . at Clemson
M2 . . . Duke
*Springfield, Mass.
†East Rutherford, N.J.

UNC ASHEVILLE
N23 . . . at East Tennessee State
N26 . . . at Kansas State
D3 . . . Montreat College
D7 . . . Duquesne
D19 . . . at South Carolina
D21 . . . at Marshall
D23 . . . at Kentucky
D27-28 . . . Bow Tie Classic
D30 . . . at New Mexico State
J4 . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
J6 . . . Marshall
J9 . . . at Radford
J11 . . . Liberty
J13 . . . at Georgia State
J15 . . . Winthrop
J18 . . . Charleston Southern
J20 . . . Coastal Carolina
J25 . . . at UNC Greensboro
J30 . . . at Coastal Carolina
F1 . . . at Charleston Southern
F8 . . . Radford
F10 . . . at Liberty
F15 . . . at Md.-Baltimore Co.
F20 . . . UNC Greensboro
F22 . . . at Winthrop

NORTH CAROLINA A&T
N23 . . . at Texas A&M
N30 . . . at Louisiana State
D2 . . . at Oklahoma State
D7 . . . at UNC Greensboro
D14 . . . at North Carolina Central
D30 . . . Livingstone
J9 . . . at Winston-Salem
J11 . . . Morgan State
J13 . . . Howard
J15 . . . at Coppin State
J18 . . . at Florida A&M
J20 . . . at Bethune-Cookman
J25 . . . at Delaware State
J27 . . . at Md.-Eastern Shore
J30 . . . Hampton
F1 . . . Bethune-Cookman
F3 . . . Florida A&M
F8 . . . Delaware State
F10 . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
F15 . . . South Carolina State
F20 . . . at Hampton
F22 . . . at Morgan State
F24 . . . at Howard
F26 . . . Coppin State
M1 . . . at South Carolina State

UNC CHARLOTTE
N30 . . . at Old Dominion
D6-7 . . . Pepsi Challenge
D14 . . . at Davidson
D18 . . . Southern Illinois
D21 . . . at Canisius
D28 . . . Tennessee
D30 . . . George Washington
J4 . . . Virginia Military
J6 . . . Louisville
J9 . . . Memphis
J11 . . . Saint Louis
J14 . . . at South Florida
J19 . . . at Memphis
J21 . . . Cincinnati
J25 . . . at Tulane
J29 . . . Houston
F1 . . . at James Madison
F4 . . . at DePaul
F9 . . . at Houston
F15 . . . Marquette
F23 . . . UAB
F26 . . . at Louisville
M2 . . . at Southern Miss

UNC GREENSBORO
N23 . . . at William & Mary
N27-30 . . . Great Alaska Shootout
D5 . . . at Appalachian State
D7 . . . North Carolina A&T
D9 . . . at Virginia Tech
D21 . . . Hampton
D28-29 . . . Franklin Life Classic
D31 . . . at Georgia Tech
J4 . . . Loyola (Md.)
J6 . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
J8 . . . Appalachian State
J11 . . . Charleston Southern
J15 . . . Duke
J18 . . . at Radford
J20 . . . at Liberty
J22 . . . at Loyola (Md.)
J25 . . . UNC Asheville
J29 . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
F1 . . . at Coastal Carolina
F3 . . . Winthrop
F6 . . . Liberty
F8 . . . at Charleston Southern
F13 . . . Radford
F15 . . . at Winthrop
F20 . . . at UNC Asheville
F22 . . . Coastal Carolina

NORTH CAROLINA STATE
N22 . . . Florida Atlantic
N25 . . . Penn State
N27 . . . Lamar
N30 . . . at Memphis
D3 . . . Winthrop
D7 . . . Wake Forest
D19 . . . Central Florida
D21 . . . at Kansas
D31 . . . Arkansas-Pine Bluff
J4 . . . at Florida State
J7 . . . Texas-Pan American
J12 . . . Maryland
J15 . . . at North Carolina
J18 . . . at Clemson
J21 . . . Duke
J25 . . . at Georgia Tech
J28 . . . at Virginia
F1 . . . Clemson
F5 . . . at Maryland
F8 . . . at Duke
F12 . . . North Carolina
F16 . . . at Wake Forest
F19 . . . Virginia
F22 . . . Georgia Tech
F26 . . . Florida State
M1 . . . Wofford

UNC WILMINGTON
N22-24 . . . Top of the World Cl.
N30 . . . at Wisconsin
D2 . . . at SW Missouri St.
D7 . . . Court Authority
D14 . . . Campbell
D19 . . . Manhattan
D21 . . . Mississippi State
D22 . . . Massachusetts
D27-28 . . . Bow Tie Classic
D30 . . . at Villanova
J4 . . . George Mason
J6 . . . American
J11 . . . at Va. Commonwealth
J13 . . . at Old Dominion
J16 . . . at William & Mary
J18 . . . at James Madison
J20 . . . Richmond
J25 . . . East Carolina
J29 . . . William & Mary
F1 . . . at American
F3 . . . at George Mason
F5 . . . at Coastal Carolina
F8 . . . Old Dominion
F12 . . . James Madison
F15 . . . at Richmond
F19 . . . Va. Commonwealth
F22 . . . at East Carolina

NORTHEASTERN
N23 . . . Niagara
N25 . . . at Connecticut
N29-30 . . . Coors Light Classic
D6 . . . at Delaware
D8 . . . at Towson State
D21 . . . Rider
D27-28 . . . Iona-Pepsi Classic
D30 . . . at Rutgers
J2 . . . Maine
J4 . . . New Hampshire
J10 . . . Drexel
J12 . . . Hofstra
J16 . . . at Vermont
J19 . . . at Hartford
J21 . . . at Boston University
J24 . . . Towson State
J26 . . . Delaware
F1 . . . Boston University
F6 . . . at Drexel
F8 . . . at Hofstra
F13 . . . Hartford
F15 . . . Vermont
F20 . . . at Maine
F22 . . . at New Hampshire

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
N26 . . . Trinity College
N30 . . . at Alabama
D3 . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
D7 . . . Wisconsin-Lutheran
D12 . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
D14 . . . Oral Roberts
D17 . . . Illinois-Chicago
D20 . . . Oregon State
D22 . . . at Arizona State
J2 . . . Chicago State
J6 . . . at Central Conn. St.
J11 . . . Valparaiso
J13 . . . Western Illinois
J18 . . . at Troy State
J20 . . . Mo.-Kansas City
J25 . . . Youngstown State
J27 . . . Buffalo
F1 . . . at Oral Roberts
F3 . . . Central Conn. St.
F6 . . . at Western Illinois
F8 . . . at Valparaiso
F10 . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
F12 . . . Troy State
F15 . . . at Buffalo
F17 . . . at Youngstown State
F22 . . . at Chicago State

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA
N23 . . . at Oklahoma
N25 . . . at Oral Roberts
N30 . . . Southern Miss
D3 . . . Arkansas-Monticello
D6-7 . . . Dr Pepper Invitational
D19 . . . at Memphis
D22 . . . at Ball State
D28 . . . Houston
J4 . . . at Stephen F. Austin State
J9 . . . Southwest Texas State
J11 . . . Texas-San Antonio
J16 . . . at McNeese State
J18 . . . at Nicholls State
J23 . . . Texas-Arlington
J27 . . . at Northwestern State
J30 . . . at Texas-San Antonio
F1 . . . at Southwest Texas State
F6 . . . Stephen F. Austin State
F8 . . . Sam Houston State
F13 . . . McNeese State
F15 . . . Nicholls State
F17 . . . at Sam Houston State
F22 . . . Northwestern State
F27 . . . at Texas-Arlington
M1 . . . Oral Roberts

NORTHERN ARIZONA
N22 . . . Cal State Sacramento
N26 . . . at Arizona
N30 . . . Sam Houston State
D3 . . . McNeese State
D7 . . . Texas-Arlington
D16 . . . at Southern Utah
D18 . . . at Loyola Marymount
D21 . . . Occidental College
D30 . . . at UNLV
J2 . . . Eastern Washington
J4 . . . Portland State
J9 . . . at Montana
J11 . . . at Montana State
J16 . . . Idaho State
J18 . . . Weber State
J24 . . . at Idaho State
J28 . . . Southern Utah
F1 . . . at Cal State Northridge
F6 . . . Montana State
F8 . . . Montana
F13 . . . at Portland State
F15 . . . at Eastern Washington
F20 . . . at Cal State Sacramento
F22 . . . at Weber State
F27 . . . Cal State Northridge
M1 . . . Cal State Sacramento

NORTHERN ILLINOIS
N25 . . . Aurora University
N27 . . . Valparaiso
N30 . . . at Southern Illinois
D2 . . . Western Michigan
D4 . . . at Bowling Green
D18 . . . Austin Peay
D21 . . . at Western Michigan
D23 . . . Chicago State
D28-29 . . . Franklin Life Classic
J2 . . . at Illinois-Chicago
J4 . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
J8 . . . at Loyola of Chicago
J11 . . . at Wright State
J16 . . . Wis.-Green Bay
J20 . . . at Cleveland State
J23 . . . Butler
J25 . . . Detroit
J30 . . . Illinois-Chicago
F3 . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
F6 . . . Loyola of Chicago
F8 . . . Wright State
F10 . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
F13 . . . Cleveland State
F20 . . . at Butler
F22 . . . at Detroit

NORTHERN IOWA
N25 . . . Wis.-Green Bay
D2 . . . Oral Roberts
D7 . . . at Creighton
D10 . . . at Iowa
D14 . . . Nebraska
D27-28 . . . Sierra Med.Center Cl.
D30 . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
J2 . . . Creighton
J4 . . . at Oral Roberts
J9 . . . at Illinois State
J11 . . . at Indiana State
J15 . . . at SW Missouri St.
J18 . . . Southern Illinois
J20 . . . Bradley
J22 . . . Illinois State
J25 . . . at Drake
J27 . . . at Evansville
F1 . . . Wichita State
F4 . . . SW Missouri St.
F8 . . . Indiana State
F11 . . . Evansville
F15 . . . at Southern Illinois
F18 . . . at Bradley
F22 . . . Drake
F24 . . . at Wichita State

NORTH TEXAS
N23 . . . at Sam Houston State
N25 . . . Mary Hardin-Baylor
N29 . . . Samford*
N30 . . . Norfolk State*
D4 . . . Texas A&M
D7 . . . at Texas
D18 . . . at Alabama
D21 . . . Rice
J4 . . . Phillips
J9 . . . at UC Santa Barbara
J11 . . . at New Mexico State
J16 . . . at Utah State
J18 . . . at Nevada
J23 . . . Boise State
J25 . . . Idaho
J27 . . . at SMU
J30 . . . Pacific
F1 . . . Long Beach State
F6 . . . at UC Irvine
F8 . . . at Cal State Fullerton
F13 . . . at Idaho
F15 . . . at Boise State
F20 . . . Cal Poly-SLO
F22 . . . New Mexico State
F27 . . . Nevada
M1 . . . Utah State
*Cape Girardeau, Mo.

NORTHWESTERN
N22 . . . UT-Martin
N30 . . . Tennessee Tech
D3 . . . San Diego State
D7 . . . at DePaul
D14 . . . Seton Hall
D18 . . . Illinois State
D27-30 . . . Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J2 . . . at Iowa
J4 . . . Michigan
J11 . . . at Purdue
J15 . . . Indiana
J18 . . . at Michigan State
J22 . . . Penn State
J25 . . . Ohio State
J29 . . . at Wisconsin
F1 . . . Minnesota
F5 . . . at Illinois
F8 . . . Wisconsin
F13 . . . at Ohio State
F15 . . . at Penn State
F19 . . . Michigan State
F22 . . . at Indiana
F26 . . . Purdue
M5 . . . at Michigan
M8 . . . Iowa

NORTHWESTERN STATE
N23 . . . at Mississippi State
N25 . . . Arkansas Monticello
D2 . . . at Centenary
D5 . . . Louisiana Tech
D10 . . . Southwest Missouri
D14 . . . Samford
D19 . . . at Grambling
D21 . . . at SE Louisiana
D28 . . . at Baylor
D30 . . . at Colorado
J1 . . . at Sam Houston
J6 . . . at Stephen F. Austin
J9 . . . Texas-San Antonio
J11 . . . Southwest Texas
J16 . . . at Nicholls State
J18 . . . at McNeese State
J25 . . . Texas-Arlington
J27 . . . Northeast Louisiana
F1 . . . at Texas-San Antonio
F6 . . . Sam Houston State
F8 . . . Stephen F. Austin
F13 . . . Nicholls State
F15 . . . McNeese State
F22 . . . at Northeast Louisiana
M1 . . . Texas-Arlington

NOTRE DAME
N24 . . . Monmouth
N26 . . . Youngstown State
D2 . . . Indiana
D7 . . . at Providence
D10 . . . New Hampshire
D14 . . . at Kentucky
D21 . . . Loyola (Md.)
D23 . . . Nicholls State
D30 . . . at Loyola of Chicago
J2 . . . Syracuse
J4 . . . at Rutgers
J7 . . . at Georgetown
J11 . . . Boston College
J14 . . . Villanova
J18 . . . at Syracuse
J22 . . . Seton Hall
J25 . . . at West Virginia
J29 . . . at Pittsburgh
F5 . . . St. John's
F8 . . . Connecticut
F11 . . . West Virginia
F16 . . . at Villanova
F18 . . . at Seton Hall
F22 . . . Providence
F25 . . . Miami (Fla.)
M1 . . . at Boston College

OHIO STATE
N23 . . . at South Florida
D1 . . . SW Louisiana
D3 . . . Kent
D7 . . . Long Island U.
D14 . . . George Mason
D18 . . . Alabama State
D21 . . . at Southern California
D23 . . . at San Diego State
D28 . . . Kentucky*
J2 . . . at Michigan
J4 . . . Illinois
J8 . . . Penn State
J11 . . . at Michigan State
J15 . . . at Iowa
J18 . . . Minnesota
J25 . . . at Northwestern
J30 . . . Indiana
F1 . . . Wisconsin
F5 . . . at Purdue
F8 . . . at Indiana
F13 . . . Northwestern
F19 . . . at Minnesota
F22 . . . Iowa
F26 . . . Michigan State
M1 . . . at Penn State
M5 . . . at Illinois
M8 or M9 . . . Michigan
*Cleveland

OHIO UNIVERSITY
N27 . . . Wilmington
N30 . . . at West Virginia
D7 . . . at Illinois State
D12 . . . at Cal State Northridge
D14 . . . at UCLA
D18 . . . Wright State
D21 . . . Radford
D28 . . . Duquesne
J4 . . . Western Michigan
J8 . . . at Ball State
J11 . . . Akron
J13 . . . at Kent
J15 . . . Eastern Michigan
J18 . . . at Miami of Ohio
J22 . . . Toledo
J25 . . . Central Michigan
J29 . . . at Bowling Green
F1 . . . Ball State
F5 . . . at Akron
F8 . . . Kent
F12 . . . at Eastern Michigan
F15 . . . Miami of Ohio
F19 . . . at Toledo
F22 . . . at Central Michigan
F26 . . . Bowling Green
M1 . . . at Western Michigan

OKLAHOMA
N23 . . . Northeast Louisiana
N27 . . . Sam Houston State
N30 . . . Coppin State
D4 . . . Delaware State
D7 . . . SE Missouri St.
D14 . . . Centenary
D21 . . . Purdue
D23 . . . at Memphis
D27-28 . . . All-College Tourn.
J5 . . . at Texas A&M
J11 . . . at Iowa State
J15 . . . Texas Tech
J18 . . . Baylor
J21 . . . at Texas
J25 . . . Nebraska
J27 . . . at Oklahoma State
F1 . . . Texas
F4 . . . Texas A&M
F8 . . . at Kansas State
F12 . . . Colorado
F15 . . . at Missouri
F19 . . . at Texas Tech
F22 . . . Oklahoma State
F24 . . . Kansas
M1 . . . at Baylor

OKLAHOMA STATE
N20 . . . St. Mary's*
D2 . . . North Carolina A&T
D4 . . . Mississippi Valley
D5 . . . at Oklahoma State
D18 . . . College of Charleston
D21 . . . SMU
D23 . . . at Arkansas State
D30 . . . Nevada†
D4 . . . at Texas
J8 . . . Texas Tech
J11 . . . Missouri
J15 . . . at Colorado
J18 . . . UNLV
J20 . . . at Texas Tech
J25 . . . Baylor
J27 . . . Oklahoma
J29 . . . at Oral Roberts
F1 . . . at Baylor
F5 . . . Kansas State
F8 . . . Texas
F12 . . . at Kansas
F15 . . . at Texas A&M
F19 . . . Texas A&M
F22 . . . at Oklahoma
F26 . . . at Nebraska
M1 . . . Iowa State
*Preseason NIT
†Tulsa, Okla.

OLD DOMINION
N22 . . . at Towson State
N25 . . . Toledo
N30 . . . UNC Charlotte
D5 . . . Washington
D7 . . . Tulane
D13-14 . . . Carrier Classic
D18 or D19 at Mississippi State
D30-J1 . . . San Juan Classic
J4 . . . at Richmond
J8 . . . at George Mason
J11 . . . East Carolina
J13 . . . UNC Wilmington
J15 . . . at American
J18 . . . at Va. Commonwealth
J22 . . . William & Mary
J25 . . . at James Madison
J29 . . . at East Carolina
F1 . . . Richmond
F5 . . . at William & Mary
F8 . . . at UNC Wilmington
F11 . . . at George Washington
F15 . . . Va. Commonwealth
F19 . . . American
F22 . . . George Mason
F24 . . . James Madison

ORAL ROBERTS
N21 . . . Rockhurst
N25 . . . Northeast Louisiana
N27 . . . Arkansas
N30 . . . Stephen F. Austin
D2 . . . at Northern Iowa
D6-7 . . . Missoulian/Coca-Cola Cl.
D14 . . . at NE Illinois
D21 . . . at Louisiana State
D30 . . . at Southern Miss
J4 . . . Northern Iowa
J13 . . . at Tulsa
J16 . . . Montevallo
J20 . . . Valparaiso
J22 . . . Oklahoma State
J26 . . . at Cal State Sacramento
J29 . . . at Boston University
F1 . . . NE Illinois
F5 . . . at Alcorn State
F11 . . . at Stephen F. Austin
F15 . . . Montana
F19 . . . at Southern Utah
F24 . . . at Illinois-Chicago
F26 . . . Alcorn State
M1 . . . at Northeast Louisiana
M4 . . . Southern Utah

OREGON
N26 . . . San Diego State
N30 . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
D4 . . . at Portland State
D14 . . . Fresno State
D16 . . . at Nevada
D20 . . . at Boise State
D27-28 . . . Far West Classic
J4 . . . at Oregon State
J9 . . . at Washington State
J11 . . . at Washington
J16 . . . Stanford
J18 . . . California
J23 . . . at Arizona State
J25 . . . at Arizona
J30 . . . UCLA
F1 . . . Southern California
F6 . . . Washington
F8 . . . Washington State
F13 . . . at California
F15 . . . at Stanford
F20 . . . Arizona
F22 . . . Arizona State
F27 . . . Southern California
M1 . . . at UCLA
M8 . . . Oregon State

OREGON STATE
N26 . . . Portland
N30 . . . at Nebraska
D3 . . . at Long Beach State
D7 . . . Azusa Pacific
D14 . . . Portland State
D18 . . . Texas
D20 . . . at NE Illinois
D27-28 . . . Far West Classic
J4 . . . Oregon
J9 . . . at Washington
J11 . . . at Washington State
J16 . . . California
J18 . . . Stanford
J23 . . . at Arizona
J25 . . . at Arizona State
J30 . . . Southern California
F1 . . . UCLA
F6 . . . Washington
F8 . . . Washington State
F13 . . . at Stanford
F15 . . . at California
F20 . . . Arizona
F22 . . . Arizona State
F27 . . . at UCLA
M1 . . . at Southern California
M8 . . . at Oregon

PACIFIC
N22 . . . at Fresno State
N26 . . . Stanislaus State
N30 . . . at Brigham Young
D5 . . . at San Diego
D7 . . . at Pepperdine
D14 . . . Chico State
D21 . . . Santa Clara
D23 . . . Cal State Sacramento
D28 . . . Georgetown*
J4 . . . at Cal State Sacramento
J9 . . . at UC Irvine
J11 . . . at Cal State Fullerton
J16 . . . Idaho
J18 . . . Long Beach State
J23 . . . Cal Poly-SLO
J25 . . . UC Santa Barbara
J30 . . . at North Texas
F1 . . . at New Mexico State
F6 . . . Utah State
F8 . . . Nevada
F13 . . . at UC Santa Barbara
F15 . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
F20 . . . Cal State Fullerton
F22 . . . UC Irvine
F27 . . . at Boise State
M1 . . . at Long Beach State
*Halifax, Nova Scotia

PENN STATE
N23 . . . Mount St. Mary's
N25 . . . at North Carolina State
N30 . . . Loyola (Md.)
D3 . . . at UT-Chattanooga
D7 . . . Tennessee
D18 . . . Bradley
D20 . . . California*
D22 . . . Bucknell
D27 . . . Brigham Young
J4 . . . Iowa
J8 . . . at Ohio State
J11 . . . at Illinois
J15 . . . Michigan State
J18 . . . at Wisconsin
J22 . . . at Northwestern
J26 . . . Indiana
J28 . . . Michigan
F1 . . . Purdue
F5 . . . at Minnesota
F8 . . . at Michigan
F11 . . . at Indiana
F15 . . . Northwestern
F19 . . . Wisconsin
F22 . . . at Michigan State
F25 . . . Illinois
M1 . . . Ohio State
M5 . . . at Iowa
*East Rutherford, N.J.

PENNSYLVANIA
D3 . . . Towson State
D7 . . . at Lehigh
D10 . . . Villanova
D21 . . . at Maryland
D28-30 . . . Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J4 . . . at Rice
J10 . . . at Yale
J11 . . . at Brown
J15 . . . Drexel
J18 . . . St. Joseph's
J20 . . . at Lafayette
J24 . . . at La Salle
J28 . . . at Temple
J31 . . . at Columbia
F1 . . . at Cornell
F7 . . . Harvard
F8 . . . Dartmouth
F11 . . . Princeton
F14 . . . Brown
F15 . . . Yale
F21 . . . at Dartmouth
F22 . . . at Harvard
F28 . . . Cornell
M1 . . . Columbia
M4 . . . at Princeton

PEPPERDINE
N22 . . . at Weber State
N25 . . . UC Santa Barbara
N30 . . . at Boise State
D3 . . . San Jose State
D7 . . . Pacific
D13-14 . . . Carrier Classic
D19 . . . Cal State Northridge
D21 . . . at Cal State Northridge
D27 . . . Cal State Hayward
D30-31 . . . Pepsi Oneida Classic
J10 . . . San Diego
J11 . . . San Francisco
J15 . . . at Loyola Marymount
J18 . . . Loyola Marymount
J23 . . . at Portland
J25 . . . at Gonzaga
J31 . . . Gonzaga
F1 . . . Portland
F7 . . . at St. Mary's
F9 . . . at Santa Clara
F14 . . . Santa Clara
F15 . . . St. Mary's
F20 . . . at San Francisco
F22 . . . at San Diego

PITTSBURGH
N24 . . . Illinois State
N26 . . . at Navy
N29 . . . at North Carolina
D4 . . . Connecticut
D8 . . . at Seton Hall
D14 . . . Va. Commonwealth
D16 . . . Carnegie Mellon
D18 . . . St. Francis
D21 . . . at Duquesne
D23 . . . Mt. St. Mary's
D27-30 . . . Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J4 . . . at St. John's
J8 . . . Miami (Fla.)
J11 . . . Rutgers
J18 . . . St. John's
J21 . . . at Boston College
J25 . . . at Georgetown
J29 . . . Notre Dame
F1 . . . at West Virginia
F5 . . . at Miami (Fla.)
F8 . . . Seton Hall
F12 . . . Villanova
F15 . . . at Providence
F19 . . . Georgetown
F23 . . . Boston College
F25 . . . at Connecticut
M2 . . . at Syracuse

PORTLAND
N22 . . . Pacific Lutheran
N26 . . . at Oregon State
N29-D1 . . . United Tip-Off Cl.
D7 . . . Portland State
D14 . . . San Jose State
D18 . . . at Nevada
D21 . . . Washington
D27-28 . . . Gossner Classic
J2 . . . at Southern Utah
J4 . . . at Cal Poly-SLO
J9 . . . St. Mary's
J11 . . . Santa Clara
J16 . . . at San Francisco
J18 . . . at San Diego
J23 . . . Pepperdine
J25 . . . Loyola Marymount
J31 . . . at Loyola Marymount
F1 . . . at Pepperdine
F5 . . . at Gonzaga
F8 . . . Gonzaga
F13 . . . San Diego
F15 . . . San Francisco
F21 . . . at Santa Clara
F22 . . . at St. Mary's

PORTLAND STATE
N23 . . . at Mississippi
N26 . . . at Tulane
N30 . . . at Washington

SCHEDULES

D4 ..... Oregon
D7 ..... at Portland
D14 ..... at Oregon State
D17 ..... Eastern Oregon
D21 ..... at San Diego
D28 ..... Whitman
J2 ..... at Cal State Northridge
J4 ..... at Northern Arizona
J7 ..... at Cal State Sacramento
J11 ..... Idaho State
J16 ..... Montana
J18 ..... Montana State
J23 ..... at Weber State
J25 ..... Eastern Washington
J29 ..... Southern Oregon
F1 ..... at Eastern Washington
F3 ..... Weber State
F6 ..... Cal State Sacramento
F8 ..... at Idaho State
F13 ..... Northern Arizona
F15 ..... Cal State Northridge
F19 ..... at Montana
F21 ..... at Montana State

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

N23 ..... Southwestern Adventist
N25 ..... Faith Baptist
F26 ..... at Mississippi
D4 ..... at Tulane
D6-7 ..... First Bank Classic
D16 ..... at McNeese State
D18 ..... at Baylor
D21 ..... at Wichita State
D23 ..... at Louisiana State
D30 ..... at SMU
J4 ..... Jackson State
J6 ..... Alabama State
J11 ..... at Grambling State
J13 ..... at Mississippi Valley
J18 ..... Alcorn State
J20 ..... Southern
J25 ..... at Texas Southern
F1 ..... at Jackson State
F3 ..... at Alabama State
F5 ..... Houston-Tillotson
F8 ..... Grambling State
F10 ..... Mississippi Valley
F15 ..... at Alcorn State
F17 ..... at Southern
F22 ..... Texas Southern

PRINCETON

N20 ..... at Indiana*
D3 ..... at Lafayette
D6-7 ..... First Bank Classic
D10 ..... Bucknell
D14 ..... at Monmouth
D19 ..... Lehigh
D22 ..... North Carolina
D27-28 .. Sierra Med. Center Cl.
J3 ..... at Manhattan
J10 ..... at Brown
J11 ..... at Yale
J14 ..... Rutgers
J27 ..... Hamilton
J31 ..... at Cornell
F1 ..... at Columbia
F7 ..... Dartmouth
F8 ..... Harvard
F11 ..... at Pennsylvania
F14 ..... Yale
F15 ..... Brown
F21 ..... at Harvard
F22 ..... at Dartmouth
F28 ..... Columbia
M1 ..... Cornell
M4 ..... Pennsylvania
*Preseason NIT

PROVIDENCE

N22-24 .. Top Of The World Cl.
N27 ..... Long Island U.
N30 ..... Columbia
D4 ..... at Villanova
D7 ..... Notre Dame
D10 ..... Rhode Island
D21 ..... Brown
D28 ..... at Loyola Marymount
D31 ..... Texas
J2 ..... St. John's
J6 ..... Villanova
J11 ..... at Seton Hall
J15 ..... at Miami (Fla.)
J19 ..... West Virginia
J25 ..... at St. John's
J27 ..... Canisius
J29 ..... at Connecticut
F1 ..... Boston College
F5 ..... Rutgers
F8 ..... at West Virginia
F12 ..... at Georgetown
F15 ..... Pittsburgh
F18 ..... at Rutgers
F22 ..... at Notre Dame
F24 ..... Syracuse
M2 ..... Georgetown

PURDUE

N24 ..... Idaho
N26 ..... at Western Michigan
N30 ..... Bowling Green State
D3 ..... Kentucky*
D6-7 .. Boilermaker Invitational
D6 ..... Cornell
D7 ..... Mercer
D14 ..... Louisville†
D16 ..... UT-Martin
D21 ..... at Oklahoma
D30 ..... at TCU
J2 ..... at Illinois
J7 ..... Iowa
J11 ..... Northwestern
J16 ..... at Michigan
J18 ..... Indiana
J22 ..... Wisconsin
J25 ..... at Minnesota
J29 ..... Michigan State
F1 ..... at Penn State
F5 ..... Ohio State
F8 ..... at Michigan State
F12 ..... Minnesota
F15 ..... at Wisconsin
F18 ..... at Indiana
F23 ..... Michigan
F26 ..... at Northwestern

M1or 2 ..... at Iowa
M8 ..... Illinois
*Chicago
†Indianapolis

RADFORD

N24 ..... at Evansville
N26 ..... at UT-Martin
N29 ..... at Georgia Tech
D2 ..... Va. Commonwealth
D5 ..... Richmond
D7 ..... Marshall
D10 ..... Virginia Military
D12 ..... Concord
D21 ..... at Ohio U.
D28 ..... at Virginia
D30 ..... at East Tennessee State
J4 ..... at Duquesne
J9 ..... UNC Asheville
J11 ..... at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J18 ..... UNC Greensboro
J22 ..... at Winthrop
J25 ..... Coastal Carolina
J27 ..... Charleston Southern
F1 ..... at Liberty
F3 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
F8 ..... at UNC Asheville
F10 ..... Winthrop
F13 ..... at UNC Greensboro
F15 ..... at Charleston Southern
F17 ..... at Coastal Carolina
F22 ..... Liberty

RHODE ISLAND

N23 ..... at Siena
N27 ..... at Texas
N30 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
D4 ..... Brown
D10 ..... at Providence
D17 ..... Minnesota
D23 ..... Boston University
D29-30 .. Meadowlands Tourn.
J2 ..... Iona
J4 ..... Dayton
J7 ..... at Temple
J11 ..... St. Joseph's
J16 ..... at Duquesne
J18 ..... at Virginia Tech
J21 ..... at Massachusetts
J25 ..... St. Bonaventure
J28 ..... at Xavier
F2 ..... at St. Joseph's
F6 ..... La Salle
F8 ..... Massachusetts
F11 ..... Fordham
F16 ..... Temple
F20 ..... at St. Bonaventure
F26 ..... George Washington
M1 ..... at Fordham

RICE

N22 ..... Houston Baptist
N26 ..... Colorado Mines
N29 ..... at Florida State
D3 ..... at St. Bonaventure
D6-7 ..... First Bank Classic
D21 ..... at North Texas
D23 ..... at Southern
D30 ..... Navy
J4 ..... Pennsylvania
J6 ..... Fresno State
J13 ..... at Tulsa
J16 ..... Texas-El Paso
J18 ..... New Mexico
J23 ..... at Brigham Young
J25 ..... at Utah
J30 ..... Texas Christian
F1 ..... SMU
F6 ..... Tulsa
F8 ..... at Fresno State
F13 ..... at New Mexico
F17 ..... at Texas-El Paso
F22 ..... Brigham Young
F24 ..... Utah
F27 ..... at SMU
M1 ..... TCU

RICHMOND

N25 ..... at North Carolina
N27 ..... Wofford
D1 ..... Wake Forest
D5 ..... at Radford
D19 ..... Campbell
D27-28 .. Iona-Pepsi Classic
J2 ..... at American
J4 ..... Old Dominion
J8 ..... Virginia Military
J11 ..... William & Mary
J15 ..... at George Mason
J18 ..... at East Carolina
J20 ..... at UNC Wilmington
J25 ..... Va. Commonwealth
J27 ..... James Madison
J30 ..... at Virginia
F1 ..... at Old Dominion
F5 ..... George Mason
F8 ..... at William & Mary
F12 ..... American
F15 ..... UNC Wilmington
F17 ..... East Carolina
F19 ..... at Wofford
F22 ..... at James Madison
F24 ..... at Va. Commonwealth

RIDER

N23 ..... at New Hampshire
N26 ..... at Delaware
N30 ..... Siena
D5-7 ..... Gaucho Classic
D14 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
D21 ..... at Northeastern
D28 ..... at Villanova
J4 ..... Wagner
J6 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
J9 ..... at Monmouth
J11 ..... at Long Island U.
J15 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
J18 ..... at Mt. St. Mary's
J20 ..... Marist
J23 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
J25 ..... at Robert Morris
F1 ..... at Wagner
F3 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
F6 ..... Monmouth
F8 ..... Long Island U.

F12 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F15 ..... Mt. St. Mary's
F17 ..... at Marist
F20 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
F22 ..... Robert Morris

ROBERT MORRIS

N23 ..... at Bucknell
N27 ..... at Vermont
D3 ..... at Evansville
D5 ..... Niagara
D14 ..... Florida Atlantic
D19 ..... at West Virginia
D28-30 .. Fiesta Bowl Cl.
J4 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J6 ..... at Long Island U.
J9 ..... Marist
J11 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
J15 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
J18 ..... at Wagner
J20 ..... at Monmouth
J23 ..... Mount St. Mary's
J25 ..... Rider
F1 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
F3 ..... Long Island U.
F6 ..... at Marist
F8 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
F12 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
F15 ..... Wagner
F17 ..... Monmouth
F20 ..... at Mount St. Mary's
F22 ..... at Rider

RUTGERS

N26 ..... Wagner
N30 ..... at Cincinnati
D4 ..... at Boston College
D7 ..... Georgetown
D7 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.
D14 ..... St. Peter's
D30 ..... Northeastern
J2 ..... Connecticut
J4 ..... Notre Dame
J6 ..... at Princeton
J11 ..... at Pittsburgh
J15 ..... at West Virginia
J26 ..... Seton Hall
J29 ..... at St. John's
F2 ..... Miami (Fla.)
F5 ..... at Providence
F8 ..... at Miami (Fla.)
F11 ..... Loyola (Md.)
F13 ..... South Florida
F15 ..... St. John's
F18 ..... Providence
F22 ..... at Providence
F26 ..... at Georgetown
M1 ..... Villanova

ST. BONAVENTURE

N30 ..... at Canisius
D3 ..... Rice
D7 ..... at Buffalo
D11 ..... Morgan State
D14 ..... Wisconsin
D17 ..... at Penn State
D23 ..... Navy
D27-28 .. Tribune Classic
J2 ..... at Virginia Tech
J6 ..... George Washington
J9 ..... at St. Joseph's
J11 ..... at Temple
J14 ..... Massachusetts
J18 ..... Fordham
J21 ..... Niagara
J25 ..... at Rhode Island
J27 ..... at Colgate
J29 ..... at Fordham
F4 ..... Temple
F8 ..... Dayton
F11 ..... at Massachusetts
F15 ..... La Salle
F20 ..... Rhode Island
F22 ..... St. Joseph's
F27 ..... at Xavier
M1 ..... at Duquesne

ST. FRANCIS (N.Y.)

N26 ..... at Lehigh
N30 ..... Brown
D3 ..... at Hartford
D7 ..... at Morgan State
D10 ..... at Columbia
D14 ..... Central Conn. St.
D20-21 .. So. Florida Holiday Inv.
J4 ..... Robert Morris
J6 ..... St. Francis (Pa.)
J9 ..... at Wagner
J11 ..... at Monmouth
J15 ..... at Rider
J18 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
J20 ..... at Mount St. Mary's
J23 ..... at Marist
J25 ..... Long Island U.
F1 ..... at Robert Morris
F3 ..... at St. Francis (Pa.)
F6 ..... Wagner
F8 ..... Monmouth
F12 ..... Rider
F14 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
F17 ..... Mount St. Mary's
F20 ..... Marist
F22 ..... at Long Island U.

ST. FRANCIS (Pa.)

N27 ..... at Duquesne
N30 ..... at Youngstown State
D3 ..... Youngstown State
D7 ..... at Bucknell
D18 ..... at Pittsburgh
D21 ..... Central Conn. St.
J4 ..... at Long Island U.
J6 ..... at St. Francis (N.Y.)
J9 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
J11 ..... Marist
J15 ..... Robert Morris
J18 ..... at Monmouth
J20 ..... at Wagner
J23 ..... Rider
J25 ..... Mount St. Mary's
F1 ..... Long Island U.
F3 ..... St. Francis (N.Y.)
F6 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson

F8 ..... at Marist
F12 ..... at Robert Morris
F15 ..... Monmouth
F17 ..... Wagner
F20 ..... at Rider
F22 ..... at Mount St. Mary's

ST. JOHN'S

N23 ..... Long Island U.
N30 ..... Hofstra
D3 ..... at Miami (Fla.)
D7 ..... Villanova
D11 ..... Michigan
D15 ..... at Minnesota
D21 ..... Fairleigh Dickinson
D26-28 .. ECAC Holiday Festival
J2 ..... at Providence
J4 ..... Pittsburgh
J8 ..... at Connecticut
J12 ..... West Virginia
J14 ..... at Niagara
J18 ..... at Pittsburgh
J21 ..... at Georgetown
J25 ..... Providence
J29 ..... Rutgers
F1 ..... Georgetown
F5 ..... at Notre Dame
F9 ..... Boston College
F12 ..... Syracuse
F15 ..... at Rutgers
F19 ..... at Villanova
F22 ..... Miami (Fla.)
F26 ..... at Seton Hall

ST. JOSEPH'S

N20 ..... at Duke*
D3 ..... Wyoming
D7 ..... Tulsa†
D16 ..... DePaul
D19 ..... at East Carolina
D23 ..... at Villanova
D30-31 .. Pepsi Oneida Classic
J5 ..... at Massachusetts
J9 ..... St. Bonaventure
J11 ..... at Rhode Island
J15 ..... at George Washington
J18 ..... at Pennsylvania
J21 ..... Duquesne
J25 ..... Virginia Tech
J30 ..... Temple
F2 ..... Rhode Island
F4 ..... at Dayton
F6 ..... Fordham
F8 ..... Xavier
F11 ..... Drexel
F13 ..... at Temple
F16 ..... at Fordham
F18 ..... Delaware
F22 ..... at St. Bonaventure
F25 ..... Massachusetts
M1 ..... at La Salle
*Preseason NIT
†Atlantic City, N.J.

SAINT LOUIS

N20 ..... Arkansas-Little Rock*
D4 ..... Southern Illinois
D7 ..... Mo.-Kansas City
D9 ..... Alcorn State
D14 ..... Furman
D15 ..... at SW Missouri St.
D18 ..... Murray State
D21 ..... Eastern Illinois
D23 ..... UCLA
D31 ..... at Vanderbilt
J5 ..... Cincinnati
J11 ..... at UNC Charlotte
J13 ..... Southern Utah
J18 ..... at Marquette
J20 ..... Maine
J22 ..... at Tulane
J25 ..... Houston
J29 ..... UAB
F2 ..... Southern Miss
F6 ..... at Louisville
F13 ..... at Cincinnati
F16 ..... DePaul
F19 ..... Memphis
F23 ..... at South Florida
F25 ..... Marquette
M1 ..... at DePaul
*Preseason NIT

ST MARY'S

N20 ..... at Oklahoma State*
N22 ..... at UCLA
N24 ..... San Jose State
N26 .. at Cal State Sacramento
D1 ..... UC Santa Barbara
D6-7 ..... Hawaii Invitational
D13-14 ..... Cougar Classic
D16 ..... at Cal State Northridge
D20 ..... Alaska-Anchorage
D23 ..... Fresno State
D28 ..... Cal State Hayward
J4 ..... Long Beach State
J9 ..... at Portland
J11 ..... at Gonzaga
J15 ..... at Santa Clara
J18 ..... Santa Clara
J24 ..... San Diego
J25 ..... San Francisco
J30 ..... at San Francisco
F1 ..... San Diego
F7 ..... Pepperdine
F8 ..... Loyola Marymount
F14 ..... at Loyola Marymount
F15 ..... at Pepperdine
F21 ..... Gonzaga
F22 ..... Portland
*Preseason NIT

ST. PETER'S

N22 ..... at Md.-Eastern Shore
N26 ..... Loyola of Chicago
N30-D1 .. Summit Bank Classic
D4 ..... at Central Conn. St.
D7 ..... at Monmouth
D10 ..... at Seton Hall
D14 ..... at Rutgers
D21 ..... at Hartford
D28 ..... at Fairleigh Dickinson
J2 ..... Siena
J6 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
J9 ..... Md.-Baltimore Co.

J11 ..... Loyola (Md.)
J19 ..... Manhattan
J21 ..... at Iona
J24 ..... at Fairfield
J26 ..... Canisius
J29 ..... at Siena
J31 ..... at Manhattan
F5 ..... Fairfield
F8 ..... at Niagara
F10 ..... at Canisius
F15 ..... Iona
F21 ..... at Loyola (Md.)
F23 ..... Niagara

SAMFORD

N25 ..... Belhaven
N29 ..... North Texas*
N30 ..... Southeast Missouri*
D3 ..... at Louisiana State
D7 ..... Drake
D14 ..... at Northwestern State
D16 ..... Bethel (Tenn.)
D21 ..... at Eastern Kentucky
D27-29 ..... Gossner Classic
J2 ..... at Stetson
J4 ..... at Central Florida
J9 ..... at Campbell
J11 ..... College of Charleston
J16 ..... SE Louisiana
J18 ..... Centenary
J23 ..... at Georgia State
J25 ..... at Mercer
J30 ..... at Jacksonville State
F1 ..... Florida International
F3 ..... Florida Atlantic
F8 ..... Jacksonville State
F13 ..... at Centenary
F15 ..... at SE Louisiana
F20 ..... Mercer
F22 ..... Georgia State
*Cape Girardeau, Mo.

SAM HOUSTON STATE

N23 ..... North Texas
N27 ..... at Oklahoma
N30 ..... at Northern Arizona
D3 ..... at Arizona State
D7 ..... at Arkansas-Little Rock
D14 ..... Eastern Washington
D19 ..... at Texas-El Paso
D21 ..... at New Mexico
D28-29 ..... Cessna Classic
J4 ..... Northwestern State
J6 ..... at Texas-Arlington
J11 ..... at Stephen F. Austin
J16 ..... at Texas-San Antonio
J18 ..... at Southwest Texas State
J23 ..... Nicholls State
J25 ..... McNeese State
J30 ..... Stephen F. Austin
F6 ..... at Northwestern State
F8 ..... at Northeast Louisiana
F13 ..... Texas-Arlington
F17 ..... Northeast Louisiana
F20 ..... at McNeese State
F22 ..... at Nicholls State
F27 ..... Texas-San Antonio
M1 ..... Southwest Texas State

SAN DIEGO

N26 ..... San Jose State
D1 ..... at Kansas
D5 ..... Pacific
D7 ..... at San Diego State
D10 ..... Cal State Fullerton
D14 ..... Stanford
D21 ..... Portland State
D23 ..... UC Irvine
D30 ..... UC Santa Barbara
J2 ..... Columbia
J4 ..... Southern Utah
J10 ..... at Pepperdine
J11 ..... at Loyola Marymount
J16 ..... Gonzaga
J18 ..... Portland
J24 ..... at St. Mary's
J25 ..... at Santa Clara
J30 ..... Santa Clara
F1 ..... St. Mary's
F5 ..... at San Francisco
F8 ..... San Francisco
F13 ..... at Portland
F16 ..... at Gonzaga
F20 ..... Loyola Marymount
F22 ..... Pepperdine

SAN DIEGO STATE

N22 ..... UC Irvine
N26 ..... at Oregon
N30 ..... Eastern Washington
D3 ..... at Northwestern
D7 ..... San Diego
D10 ..... at Southwest Texas
D14 ..... Loyola Marymount
D20 ..... Southern Calif. College
D23 ..... Ohio State
D30 ..... at Brigham Young
J4 ..... Texas-El Paso
J9 ..... at UNLV
J11 ..... at Air Force
J16 ..... Wyoming
J18 ..... Colorado St.
J23 ..... at Texas-El Paso
J25 ..... Hawaii
J30 ..... at Fresno State
F1 ..... at San Jose State
F6 ..... Air Force
F8 ..... UNLV
F13 ..... at Colorado State
F15 ..... at Wyoming
F20 ..... at Hawaii
F27 ..... San Jose State
M1 ..... Fresno State

SAN FRANCISCO

N24 ..... Sonoma State
N30 ..... at Arkansas
D3 ..... College of Notre Dame
D6-7 ..... Met Life Classic
D11 ..... at San Jose State
D14 ..... at UC Santa Barbara
D23 ..... at California
D29-30 .. Meadowlands Tourn.
J4 ..... UC Irvine
J10 ..... at Loyola Marymount

J11 ..... at Pepperdine
J16 ..... Portland
J18 ..... Gonzaga
J24 ..... at Santa Clara
J25 ..... at St. Mary's
J30 ..... St. Mary's
F1 ..... Santa Clara
F5 ..... San Diego
F8 ..... at San Diego
F13 ..... at Gonzaga
F15 ..... at Portland
F20 ..... Pepperdine
F22 ..... Loyola Marymount

SAN JOSE STATE

N24 ..... at St. Mary's
N26 ..... San Diego
D1 ..... Santa Clara
D3 ..... at Pepperdine
D11 ..... San Francisco
D14 ..... at Portland
D22 ..... at Washington State
D27-28 ..... Cable Car Classic
J2 ..... UNLV
J4 ..... Tulsa
J11 ..... at Fresno State
J16 ..... Air Force
J23 ..... at Wyoming
J25 ..... at Colorado State
J30 ..... Hawaii
F1 ..... San Diego State
F6 ..... Fresno State
F10 ..... at Tulsa
F13 ..... at UNLV
F15 ..... at Air Force
F20 ..... Colorado State
F22 ..... Wyoming
F27 ..... at San Diego State
M1 ..... at Hawaii

SANTA CLARA

N22 ..... Kansas
N26 ..... at Fresno State
N29 ..... Marquette
D1 ..... at San Jose State
D6-7 ..... Met Life Classic
D13-14 ..... Indiana Classic
D17 ..... at Eastern Washington
D21 ..... at Pacific
D27-28 ..... Cable Car Classic
J9 ..... at Gonzaga
J11 ..... at Portland
J15 ..... St. Mary's
J18 ..... at St. Mary's
J24 ..... San Francisco
J25 ..... San Diego
J30 ..... at San Diego
F1 ..... at San Francisco
F7 ..... Loyola Marymount
F9 ..... Pepperdine
F14 ..... at Pepperdine
F15 ..... at Loyola Marymount
F21 ..... Portland
F22 ..... Gonzaga

SETON HALL

N20 ..... Iona*
D2 ..... at Georgetown
D6 ..... Fordham
D8 ..... Pittsburgh
D10 ..... St. Peter's
D14 ..... at Northwestern
D22 ..... Stanford
D23 ..... Wagner
D29-30 .. Meadowlands Tourn.
J2 ..... at Villanova
J4 ..... Boston College
J8 ..... at West Virginia
J11 ..... Providence
J15 ..... Syracuse
J18 ..... Florida State
J22 ..... at Notre Dame
J26 ..... at Rutgers
J28 ..... at Syracuse
F1 ..... Connecticut
F8 ..... at Pittsburgh
F10 ..... Miami
F16 ..... at Boston College
F18 ..... Notre Dame
F22 ..... West Virginia
F26 ..... St. John's
M1 ..... at Connecticut
*Preseason NIT

SIENA

N23 ..... Rhode Island
N30 ..... at Rider
D5-6 ..... Cyclone Challenge
D10 ..... Hartford
D22 ..... Marist
D30 ..... Wagner
J2 ..... at St. Peter's
J4 ..... Colgate
J8 ..... at Holy Cross
J12 ..... Iona
J15 ..... at Loyola (Md.)
J18 ..... at Youngstown
J20 ..... Fairfield
J23 ..... at Yale
J26 ..... at Fairfield
J29 ..... St. Peter's
J31 ..... Niagara
F2 ..... at Canisius
F6 ..... at Davidson
F10 ..... Manhattan
F13 ..... Niagara
F15 ..... Canisius
F18 ..... Loyola (Md.)
F21 ..... at Manhattan
F23 ..... at Iona

SOUTH ALABAMA

N23 ..... Abilene Christian
N26 ..... West Florida
N29 ..... Grambling
D3 ..... at Southern Miss
D7 ..... Florida A&M
D10 ..... UAB
D18 ..... at Auburn
D21 ..... Nicholls State
D28 ..... SW Louisiana
J2 ..... Arkansas-Little Rock
J4 ..... Arkansas State
J9 ..... Texas-Pan American

J11 ..... at Lamar
J13 ..... at Jacksonville
J18 ..... at Western Kentucky
J20 ..... New Orleans
J23 ..... at Arkansas-Little Rock
J25 ..... at Arkansas State
J30 ..... at New Orleans
F1 ..... at Texas-Pan American
F3 ..... Louisiana Tech
F13 ..... Lamar
F15 ..... Jacksonville
F20 ..... at Louisiana Tech
F22 ..... Western Kentucky
F24 ..... at SW Louisiana

SOUTH CAROLINA

N25-27 ..... Maui Invitational
D2 ..... Wofford
D6-7 ..... Pepsi Challenge
D17 ..... Clemson
D19 ..... UNC Asheville
D21 ..... South Carolina State
D28 ..... Charleston Southern
D30 ..... Furman
J4 ..... Auburn
J8 ..... Tennessee
J11 ..... at Mississippi State
J15 ..... at Florida
J18 ..... Georgia
J22 ..... At Alabama
J25 ..... Mississippi
J29 ..... at Vanderbilt
F1 ..... at Louisiana State
F4 ..... Kentucky
F8 ..... Florida
F12 ..... at Georgia
F15 ..... at Cincinnati
F18 ..... Arkansas
F20 ..... at The Citadel
F22 ..... at Tennessee
F26 ..... Vanderbilt
M2 ..... at Kentucky

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

N30 ..... Savannah State
D4 ..... Benedict
D14 ..... at Claflin
D18 ..... at Charleston Southern
D21 ..... at South Carolina
D28 ..... at Furman
D30 ..... at Clemson
J2 ..... at Duke
J7 ..... Hampton
J9 ..... Coppin State
J11 ..... Howard
J13 ..... Morgan State
J18 ..... at Bethune-Cookman
J20 ..... at Florida A&M
J25 ..... at Md.-Eastern Shore
J27 ..... at Delaware State
F1 ..... Florida A&M
F3 ..... Bethune-Cookman
F8 ..... Md.-Eastern Shore
F10 ..... Delaware State
F13 ..... at Hampton
F15 ..... at North Carolina A&T
F20 ..... at Coppin State
F22 ..... at Howard
F24 ..... at Morgan State
M1 ..... North Carolina A&T

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

N26 ..... at Mississippi State
N30 ..... at Jackson State
D5 ..... Arkansas-Monticello
D7 ..... at Texas A&M
D14 ..... at Southern
D16 ..... Grambling State
D18 ..... at Nicholls State
D21 ..... Northwestern State
D28 ..... Stephen F. Austin
J2 ..... at Florida International
J4 ..... Florida Atlantic
J9 ..... Stetson
J11 ..... Florida Atlantic
J16 ..... at Samford
J18 ..... at Jacksonville State
J25 ..... at Centenary
J30 ..... Georgia State
F1 ..... Mercer
F3 ..... Centenary
F6 ..... at Georgia State
F8 ..... at Mercer
F13 ..... Jacksonville State
F15 ..... Samford
F20 ..... at College of Charleston
F22 ..... at Campbell

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

N29 ..... Norfolk State
N30 ..... Samford
D5 ..... McKendree
D7 ..... at Oklahoma
D9 ..... at Louisiana State
D12 ..... Southern Illinois
D14 ..... at Missouri
D18 ..... Oakland City
D30-J1 ..... San Juan Classic
J4 ..... at Austin Peay
J6 ..... at Tennessee State
J9 ..... UT-Martin
J11 ..... Eastern Kentucky
J13 ..... Morehead State
J18 ..... Middle Tennessee
J20 ..... at Tennessee Tech
J20 ..... Tennessee Tech
J23 ..... at Murray State
J25 ..... Eastern Illinois
F1 ..... Tennessee State
F3 ..... Austin Peay
F6 ..... Murray State
F8 ..... at Morehead State
F10 ..... at Eastern Kentucky
F15 ..... Tennessee Tech
F17 ..... Middle Tenn. St.
F20 ..... at UT-Martin
F22 ..... at Eastern Illinois

SOUTHERN

D7 ..... Middle Tenn. St.
D14 ..... SE Louisiana
D23 ..... Rice
J4 ..... Grambling State
J6 ..... Mississippi Valley
J11 ..... at Alabama State

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

J13 . . . . . at Jackson State
J18 . . . . . at Texas Southern
J20 . . . . . at Prairie View A&M
J25 . . . . . Alcorn State
F1 . . . . . at Grambling State
F3 . . . . . at Mississippi Valley
F8 . . . . . Alabama State
F10 . . . . . Jackson State
F15 . . . . . Texas Southern
F17 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
F22 . . . . . at Alcorn State

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

N30 . . . . . Long Beach State
D2 . . . . . Loyola Marymount
D6-7 . . . . . Pepsi Challenge
D15 . . . . . at UC Irvine
D18 . . . . . at Tennessee
D21 . . . . . Ohio State
D28 . . . . . at UNLV
J2 . . . . . Washington
J4 . . . . . Washington State
J9 . . . . . at California
J11 . . . . . at Stanford
J16 . . . . . Arizona
J18 . . . . . Arizona State
J23 . . . . . UCLA
J26 . . . . . Cincinnati
J30 . . . . . at Oregon State
F1 . . . . . at Oregon
F6 . . . . . Stanford
F8 . . . . . California
F13 . . . . . at Arizona State
F15 . . . . . at Arizona
F20 . . . . . at UCLA
F27 . . . . . Oregon
M1 . . . . . Oregon State
M6 . . . . . at Washington State
M8 . . . . . at Washington

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

N22-24 . . . Top of the World Cl.
N30 . . . . . Northern Illinois
D4 . . . . . at Saint Louis
D12 . . . . . at SE Missouri St.
D14 . . . . . at Austin Peay
D18 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
D21 . . . . . James Madison
D31 . . . . . at Bradley
J4 . . . . . Utah State
J7 . . . . . Evansville
J12 . . . . . Illinois State
J16 . . . . . at Creighton
J18 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
J22 . . . . . at SW Missouri St.
J25 . . . . . Indiana State
J27 . . . . . Creighton
F1 . . . . . Drake
F3 . . . . . at Indiana State
F5 . . . . . Wichita State
F8 . . . . . at Drake
F10 . . . . . Bradley
F13 . . . . . at Illinois State
F15 . . . . . Northern Iowa
F17 . . . . . at Wichita State
F22 . . . . . at Evansville
F24 . . . . . SW Missouri St.

SMU

N23 . . . . . Hardin-Simmons
N30 . . . . . at Wichita State
D2 . . . . . North Texas
D5 . . . . . at Davidson
D7 . . . . . at Kent
D16 . . . . . Centenary
D21 . . . . . at Oklahoma State
D28 . . . . . at Stetson
D30 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
J4 . . . . . Air Force
J6 . . . . . Yale
J9 . . . . . at Texas-El Paso
J11 . . . . . at New Mexico
J16 . . . . . Brigham Young
J18 . . . . . Utah
J23 . . . . . at Air Force
J25 . . . . . TCU
J30 . . . . . at Tulsa
F1 . . . . . at Rice
F6 . . . . . New Mexico
F8 . . . . . Texas-El Paso
F13 . . . . . at Utah
F15 . . . . . at Brigham Young
F19 . . . . . at TCU
F27 . . . . . Rice

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

N22 . . . . . at Texas Tech
N26 . . . . . Jackson State
N30 . . . . at Northeast Louisiana
D3 . . . . . South Alabama
D6-7 . . . . . Hawkeye Invitational
D11 . . . . . Nicholls State
D14 . . . . . at New Orleans
D21 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
D23 . . . . . Texas Southern
D30 . . . . . Oral Roberts
J4 . . . . . at Marquette
J11 . . . . . at Tulane
J18 . . . . . UAB
J21 . . . . . DePaul
J25 . . . . . at South Florida
J27 . . . . . Tulane
J30 . . . . . at Memphis
F2 . . . . . at Saint Louis
F6 . . . . . Houston
F9 . . . . . South Florida
F15 . . . . . at UAB
F19 . . . . . Mississippi Valley
F22 . . . . . Louisville
F25 . . . . . at Cincinnati
M2 . . . . . UNC Charlotte

SOUTHERN UTAH

N23 . . . . . Gonzaga
N26 . . . . . Boise State
N30 . . . . . Cal State Hayward
D4 . . . . . at Utah
D6-7 . . Missoulian/Coca-Cola Cl.
D16 . . . . . Northern Arizona
D23 . . . . . at UNLV
D28 . . . . . at Arkansas
D31 . . . . . Fairfield
J2 . . . . . Portland
J4 . . . . . at San Diego

J8 . . . . . at Tulsa
J11 . . . . . Seattle
J13 . . . . . at Saint Louis
J15 . . . . . at Fairfield
J20 . . . . . Western Oregon
J23 . . . . . at Western Illinois
J28 . . . . . at Northern Arizona
F3 . . . . . at Nevada
F5 . . . . . Montana Tech
F7 . . . . . at Weber State
F17 . . . . . Montana State
F19 . . . . . Oral Roberts
F22 . . . . . at Idaho State
F25 . . . . . UC Irvine
M4 . . . . . at Oral Roberts

SOUTH FLORIDA

N23 . . . . . Ohio State
N26 . . . at George Washington
D4 . . . . . Florida Atlantic
D7 . . . . . Jacksonville
D10 . . . . . at Florida
D14 . . . . . Central Florida
D20-21 . . So. Florida Holiday Inv.
D27-28 . . Sports Foundation Cl.
J7 . . . . . at Memphis
J11 . . . . . at DePaul
J14 . . . . . UNC Charlotte
J18 . . . . . Tulane
J22 . . . . . at Houston
J25 . . . . . Southern Miss
J27 . . . at Va. Commonwealth
J30 . . . . . Marquette
F1 . . . . . at UAB
F9 . . . . . at Southern Miss
F13 . . . . . at Rutgers
F17 . . . . . at Louisville
F20 . . . . . Cincinnati
F23 . . . . . Saint Louis
F26 . . . . . at Tulane
M1 . . . . . UAB

SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA

N22 . . . . . at Florida State
N25 . . . . . SW Missouri St.
N29 . . . . . Marshall
D1 . . . . . at Ohio State
D11 . . . at Va. Commonwealth
D14 . . . . . at East Carolina
D18 . . . . . Southern
D21 . . . . . Southern Miss
D28 . . . . . South Alabama
J2 . . . . . Arkansas State
J4 . . . . . at Jacksonville
J9 . . . . . Lamar
J11 . . . . . Western Kentucky
J16 . . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
J18 . . . at Texas-Pan American
J23 . . . . . at Arkansas State
J25 . . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
J30 . . . . . Louisiana Tech
F1 . . . . . at New Orleans
F6 . . . . . Jacksonville
F11 . . . . . at Western Kentucky
F15 . . . . . Texas-Pan American
F17 . . . . . at Louisiana Tech
F20 . . . . . at Lamar
F22 . . . . . New Orleans
F24 . . . . . South Alabama

SW MISSOURI STATE

N25 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
N29 . . . . . Texas Tech
D2 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
D6-7 . . . . . Pizza Hut Classic
D10 . . . at Northwestern State
D15 . . . . . Saint Louis
D21 . . . . . Drake
D30-J1 . . . . San Juan Classic
J5 . . . . . Bradley
J9 . . . . . at Long Beach State
J12 . . . . . at Drake
J15 . . . . . Northern Iowa
J18 . . . . . at Wichita State
J22 . . . . . Southern Illinois
J25 . . . . . at Bradley
J27 . . . . . at Illinois State
J30 . . . . . Creighton
F1 . . . . . Indiana State
F4 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
F8 . . . . . at Evansville
F10 . . . . . Illinois State
F13 . . . . . at Indiana State
F15 . . . . . at Creighton
F17 . . . . . Evansville
F22 . . . . . Wichita State
F24 . . . . . at Southern Illinois

SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE

N25 . . . . . Texas Southern
N29-30 . 1st Merchants Bank Cl.
D4 . . . . . Schreiner
D7 . . . . . at Centenary
D10 . . . . . San Diego State
D14 . . . . . Hardin-Simmons
D21 . . . . . Lamar
D27 . . . All-College Tournament
J2 . . . . . McNeese State
J4 . . . . . Nicholls State
J9 . . . . . at Northeast Louisiana
J11 . . . . . at Northwestern State
J15 . . . . . at Texas-Arlington
J18 . . . . . Sam Houston
J20 . . . . . Stephen F. Austin
J25 . . . . . at Texas-San Antonio
J30 . . . . . Northwestern State
F1 . . . . . Northeast Louisiana
F6 . . . . . at Nicholls State
F8 . . . . . at McNeese State
F15 . . . . . Texas-San Antonio
F20 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
F27 . . . . . at Stephen F. Austin
M1 . . . . . at Sam Houston

STANFORD

N27-30 . Great Alaska Shootout
D14 . . . . . at San Diego
D18 . . . . . Alaska-Anchorage
D21 . . . . . at Seton Hall
D28 . . . . . Navy
J2 . . . . . at Arizona State
J4 . . . . . Arizona
J9 . . . . . UCLA
J11 . . . . . Southern California
J16 . . . . . at Oregon

J18 . . . . . at Oregon State
J23 . . . . . Washington
J25 . . . . . Washington State
J29 . . . . . at California
F6 . . . . . at Southern California
F8 . . . . . at UCLA
F13 . . . . . Oregon State
F15 . . . . . Oregon
F20 . . . . . at Washington State
F22 . . . . . at Washington
M1 . . . . . California
M6 . . . . . Arizona
M8 . . . . . Arizona State

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE

N23 . . . . . at Minnesota
N27 . . . . . Schreiner
N30 . . . . . at Oral Roberts
D5-6 . . . . . Cyclone Challenge
D16 . . . . . Houston Baptist
D20-21 . . . . . UAB Classic
D28 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
J2 . . . . . at Texas-Arlington
J4 . . . . . Northeast Louisiana
J6 . . . . . Northwestern State
J11 . . . . . Sam Houston State
J18 . . . . . at Texas-San Antonio
J20 . . at Southwest Texas State
J23 . . . . . McNeese State
J25 . . . . . Nicholls State
J30 . . . . . at Sam Houston State
F6 . . . . . at Northeast Louisiana
F8 . . . . . at Northwestern State
F11 . . . . . Oral Roberts
F15 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
F20 . . . . . at Nicholls State
F22 . . . . . at McNeese State
F27 . . . . . Southwest Texas State
M1 . . . . . Texas-San Antonio

STETSON

N23 . . . . . Palm Beach Atlantic
N25 . . . . . at Furman
N27 . . . . . William & Mary
N30 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
D2 . . . . . Tennessee Temple
D14 . . . . . at Florida
D17 . . . . . at Mississippi
D21 . . . . . Youngstown State
D28 . . . . . Southern Methodist
D30 . . . . . The Citadel
J2 . . . . . Samford
J4 . . . . . Jacksonville State
J9 . . . . . at SE Louisiana
J11 . . . . . at Centenary
J16 . . . . . at Georgia State
J18 . . . . . Mercer
J23 . . . at Florida International
J25 . . . . . at Florida Atlantic
J30 . . . . . Campbell
F1 . . . . . College of Charleston
F3 . . . . . at Central Florida
F6 . . . . . at Campbell
F8 . . . . at College of Charleston
F15 . . . . . Central Florida
F20 . . . . . Florida Atlantic
F22 . . . . . Florida International

SYRACUSE

N22 . . . . . Winthrop
N28-30 . Great Alaska Shootout
D4 . . . . . West Virginia
D7 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)
D10 . . . . . at Buffalo
D13-14 . . . . . Carrier Classic
D18 . . . . . UNLV
D22 . . . . . Colgate
D30 . . . . . Md.-Eastern Shore
J2 . . . . . at Notre Dame
J7 . . . . . Boston College
J11 . . . . . at Alabama
J15 . . . . . at Seton Hall
J18 . . . . . Notre Dame
J20 . . . . . at Villanova
J26 . . . . . at Connecticut
J28 . . . . . Seton Hall
F1 . . . . . Villanova
F4 . . . . . at Boston College
F8 . . . . . Georgetown
F12 . . . . . at St. John's
F15 . . . . . at West Virginia
F17 . . . . . Connecticut
F22 . . . . . Rutgers
F24 . . . . . at Providence
M2 . . . . . Pittsburgh

TEMPLE

D4 . . . . . Wisconsin
D7 . . . . . Georgia Tech*
D9 . . . . . Tulane
D14 . . . . . at Tulsa
D21 . . . . . Pennsylvania
D27-28 . . . . . Far West Classic
J4 . . . . . DePaul
J7 . . . . . Rhode Island
J11 . . . . . St. Bonaventure
J13 . . . . . Dayton
J16 . . . . . at Cincinnati
J19 . . . . . at Xavier
J23 . . . . . at Fordham
J25 . . . . . Massachusetts
J28 . . . . . La Salle
F30 . . . . . St. Joseph's
F2 . . . . . Louisville
F4 . . . . . at St. Bonaventure
F9 . . . . . at Duquesne
F13 . . . . . St. Joseph's
F16 . . . . . at Rhode Island
F18 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
F22 . . . . . George Washington
F24 . . . . . Fordham
M1 . . . . . Massachusetts
*Atlantic City, N.J.

TENNESSEE

N24 . . . . . Morehead State
D1 . . . . . Georgia Tech
D4 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
D7 . . . . . at Penn State
D15 . . . . . Memphis
D18 . . . . . Southern California
D22 . . . . . Miami (Fla.)
D28 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
D31 . . . . . East Tennessee State
J4 . . . . . at Kentucky

J8 . . . . . at South Carolina
J11 . . . . . Vanderbilt
J15 . . . . . at Auburn
J18 . . . . . Louisiana State
J22 . . . . . at Mississippi
J25 . . . . . Florida
J29 . . . . . Georgia
F1 . . . . . Wofford
F5 . . . . . at Arkansas
F8 . . . . . Alabama
F12 . . . . . at Vanderbilt
F15 . . . . . Mississippi State
F19 . . . . . at Florida
F22 . . . . . South Carolina
F25 . . . . . Kentucky
M1 . . . . . at Georgia

UT-CHATTANOOGA

N22 . . . . . Tennessee Wesleyan
N23 . . . . . South Carolina-Aiken
N29-D1 . . . . San Juan Shootout
D3 . . . . . Penn State
D14 . . . . . at Middle Tenn. St.
D18 . . . . . at UAB
D21 . . . . . Tennessee State
D23 . . . . . at Marshall
D28-29 . . . . Dr Pepper Classic
J2 . . . . . UAB
J6 . . . . . Wofford
J9 . . . . . at Furman
J12 . . . . . at Virginia Military
J18 . . . . . at Davidson
J20 . . . . . Furman
J25 . . . . . Western Carolina
J27 . . . . . Georgia Southern
J29 . . . . . East Tennessee State
F1 . . . . . Appalachian State
F3 . . . . . at The Citadel
F8 . . . . at East Tennessee State
F10 . . . . . The Citadel
F15 . . . . . at Western Carolina
F17 . . . . . at Georgia Southern
F22 . . . . . Marshall
F24 . . . . . Cumberland

UT-MARTIN

21 . . . . . at Northwestern
N24 . . . . . Cumberland
N26 . . . . . Radford
N29 . . . . at Western Kentucky
D1 . . . . . Evansville
D3 . . . . . Lyon College
D5-6 . . . . . Cyclone Challenge
D16 . . . . . at Purdue
J6 . . . . . Murray State
J9 . . . . . at SE Missouri St.
J11 . . . . . Tennessee State
J13 . . . . . Austin Peay
J16 . . . . . at Tennessee Tech
J18 . . . . . at Morehead State
J20 . . . . . at Eastern Kentucky
J25 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
J27 . . . . . Middle Tenn. St.
J30 . . . . . at Eastern Illinois
F1 . . . . . at Murray State
F8 . . . . . at Austin Peay
F10 . . . . . at Tennessee State
F13 . . . . . Eastern Illinois
F15 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
F17 . . . . . Morehead State
F20 . . . . . Southeast Missouri
F22 . . . . . at Middle Tenn. St.

TENNESSEE STATE

D6-7 . . . . . Illini/Pepsi Classic
D14 . . . . . East Tennessee State
D18 . . . . . at Florida State
D21 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
D23 . . . . . at Louisville
D28 . . . . . at Mississippi Valley
J2 . . . . . at Jackson State
J4 . . . . . Eastern Illinois
J6 . . . . . SE Missouri St.
J9 . . . . . at Middle Tenn. St.
J11 . . . . . at UT-Martin
J13 . . . . . at Murray State
J18 . . . . . Austin Peay
J23 . . . . . at Tennessee Tech
J25 . . . . . Morehead State
J27 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
F1 . . . . . at SE Missouri St.
F3 . . . . . at Eastern Illinois
F6 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
F8 . . . . . Murray State
F10 . . . . . UT-Martin
F13 . . . . . Middle Tennessee
F15 . . . . . at Austin Peay
F20 . . . . . at Morehead State
F22 . . . . . at Eastern Kentucky

TENNESSEE TECH

N23 . . . . Clinch Valley College
N25 . . . . . Cumberland
N30 . . . . . Northwestern
D4 . . . . . at Tennessee
D17 . . . . . Arkansas State
D21 . . . . . at Vanderbilt
D28-29 . . . . Bobcat Holiday Cl.
J4 . . . . . at Morehead State
J6 . . . . . at Eastern Kentucky
J9 . . . . . Austin Peay
J11 . . . . . at Middle Tenn. St.
J16 . . . . . UT-Martin
J18 . . . . . Eastern Illinois
J20 . . . . . Southeast Missouri
J23 . . . . . Tennessee State
J25 . . . . . UT-Martin
J27 . . . . . at Murray State
F1 . . . . . Eastern Kentucky
F3 . . . . . Morehead State
F6 . . . . . at Tennessee State
F8 . . . . . Middle Tenn. St.
F13 . . . . . Murray State
F15 . . . . . at SE Missouri St.
F17 . . . . . at Eastern Illinois
F20 . . . . . at Austin Peay

TEXAS

N23 . . . . . Nebraska
N27 . . . . . Rhode Island
D4 . . . . . at Florida
D7 . . . . . North Texas
D9 . . . . . at Arizona
D14 . . . . . Fresno State
D18 . . . . . at Oregon State

D21 . . . . . at Utah
D31 . . . . . at Providence
J4 . . . . . Oklahoma State
J6 . . . . . at Kansas
J12 . . . . . Kansas State
J15 . . . . . at Texas A&M
J19 . . . . . Louisville
J21 . . . . . Oklahoma
J26 . . . . . Missouri
J29 . . . . . at Baylor
F1 . . . . . at Oklahoma
F3 . . . . . Texas Tech
F8 . . . . . at Oklahoma State
F12 . . . . . Baylor
F16 . . . . . at Nebraska
F19 . . . . . Iowa State
F22 . . . . . at Texas Tech
F25 . . . . . Texas A&M
M1 . . . . . at Colorado

TEXAS A&M

N23 . . . . . North Carolina A&T
N26 . . . . . at Colorado State
D1 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
D5 . . . . . at North Texas
D7 . . . . . SE Louisiana
D10 . . . . . Georgia Southern
D20 . . . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
D22 . . . . . Clemson
D27-28 . . Sierra Med. Center Cl.
J4 . . . . . at Texas Tech
J11 . . . . . at Baylor
J15 . . . . . Texas
J18 . . . . . Oklahoma
J22 . . . . at Oklahoma State
J25 . . . . . Baylor
J29 . . . . . at Kansas
F1 . . . . . Kansas State
F5 . . . . . Missouri
F8 . . . . . at Colorado
F12 . . . . . at Nebraska
F15 . . . . . Iowa State
F19 . . . . . Texas Tech
F22 . . . . . at Texas
M1 . . . . . Oklahoma State

TEXAS-ARLINGTON

N22 . . . . . at Tulane
N26 . . . . . at Grambling State
N30 . . . . Texas-Pan American
D2 . . . . Jarvis Christian College
D5 . . . . . at Colorado
D7 . . . . . at Northern Arizona
D17 . . . . . Texas Wesleyan
D19 . . . at Texas-Pan American
D23 . . . . . at TCU
D28 . . . . . Montana
J2 . . . . Stephen F. Austin State
J6 . . . . . Sam Houston State
J9 . . . . . at McNeese State
J11 . . . . . at Nicholls State
J15 . . . . Southwest Texas State
J20 . . . . . Texas-San Antonio
J23 . . . . at Northeast Louisiana
J25 . . . . at Northwestern State
F6 . . . . . Nicholls State
F8 . . . . . McNeese State
F13 . . . . at Sam Houston State
F15 . . at Stephen F. Austin State
F20 . . . at Southwest Texas State
F22 . . . . at Texas-San Antonio
F27 . . . . . Northeast Louisiana
M1 . . . . . Northwestern State

TEXAS CHRISTIAN

N23 . . . . . McNeese State
N25 . . . . . Centenary
N29-D1 . . Big Island Invitational
D7 . . . . . Louisiana Tech
D12 . . . . . Boston University
D14 . . . . . Texas Tech
D23 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
D27-28 . . . . . Cessna Classic
D30 . . . . . Purdue
J3 . . . . . Liberty
J6 . . . . . UNLV
J9 . . . . . at New Mexico
J11 . . . . . at Texas-El Paso
J16 . . . . . Brigham Young
J18 . . . . . Utah
J25 . . . . . at SMU
J30 . . . . . at Rice
F1 . . . . . Tulsa
F6 . . . . . Texas-El Paso
F8 . . . . . New Mexico
F13 . . . . . at Brigham Young
F15 . . . . . at Utah
F20 . . . . . SMU
F22 . . . . . at UNLV
F27 . . . . . Tulsa
M1 . . . . . Rice

TEXAS-EL PASO

N23 . . . . . Western Oregon
N30 . . . . at New Mexico State
D4 . . . . . New Mexico State
D19 . . . . . Sam Houston State
D21-22 . . Iowa State Holiday Cl.
D27-28 . . Sierra Med. Center Cl.
J4 . . . . . at San Diego State
J9 . . . . . SMU
J11 . . . . . TCU
J16 . . . . . at Rice
J18 . . . . . at Tulsa
J23 . . . . . San Diego State
J25 . . . . . at New Mexico
J30 . . . . . Utah
F1 . . . . . Brigham Young
F6 . . . . . at TCU
F8 . . . . . at SMU
F13 . . . . . Tulsa
F17 . . . . . Rice
F20 . . . . . New Mexico
F22 . . . . . Montana Tech
F27 . . . . . at Utah
M1 . . . . . at Brigham Young

TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN

N16 . . . . . Army
N23 . . . . . McMurray
N26 . . . . . at Hawaii
N30 . . . . . at Texas-Arlington
D14 . . . . . at Texas Southern
D19 . . . . . Texas-Arlington

D21 . . . . . at Baylor
D30 . . . . . at Iowa State
J2 . . . . . Louisiana Tech
J7 . . . . . North Carolina State
J9 . . . . . at South Alabama
J11 . . . . . at New Orleans
J13 . . . . . Western Kentucky
J16 . . . . . Arkansas State
J18 . . . . . SW Louisiana
J20 . . . . at Western Kentucky
J23 . . . . . Lamar
J25 . . . . . Jacksonville
J27 . . . . at Louisiana Tech
J30 . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
F1 . . . . . South Alabama
F3 . . . . . at Lamar
F6 . . . . . New Orleans
F8 . . . . . at Jacksonville
F15 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
F20 . . . . . at Arkansas State
F22 . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO

N23 . . . . . Angelo State
N26 . . . . . Abilene Christian
N30 . . . . . at Houston
D3 . . . . . at Nebraska
D6-7 . . . Bank One-Foothills Cl.
D10 . . . . . Idaho State
D17 . . . . . at Texas Tech
D21 . . . . . at Idaho State
D30 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
J2 . . . . . Nicholls State
J4 . . . . . McNeese State
J9 . . . . . at Northwestern State
J11 . . . . at Northeast Louisiana
J16 . . . . . Sam Houston State
J18 . . . . . Stephen F. Austin
J20 . . . . . at Texas-Arlington
J25 . . . . Southwest Texas State
J30 . . . . . Northeast Louisiana
F1 . . . . . Northwestern State
F6 . . . . . at McNeese State
F8 . . . . . at Nicholls State
F15 . . . at Southwest Texas State
F22 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
F27 . . . . at Sam Houston State
M1 . . . . . at Stephen F. Austin

TEXAS SOUTHERN

N23 . . . . . Tougaloo
N25 . . . . . at Southwest Texas
N30 . . . . . at California
D3 . . . . . Xavier
D6-7 . . . Dr Pepper Invitational
D14 . . . . Texas-Pan American
D17 . . . . at Mississippi State
D21 . . . . . at Memphis
D23 . . . . . at Southern Miss
D27-28 . . . . . Gossner Classic
J4 . . . . . Jackson State
J6 . . . . . Alabama State
J11 . . . . . at Grambling State
J13 . . . . . at Mississippi Valley
J18 . . . . . Southern
J20 . . . . . Alcorn State
J25 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
F1 . . . . . at Jackson State
F3 . . . . . Alabama State
F8 . . . . . Grambling State
F10 . . . . . Mississippi Valley
F15 . . . . . at Southern
F17 . . . . . at Alcorn State
F22 . . . . . at Prairie View A&M

TEXAS TECH

N22 . . . . . Southern Miss
N25 . . . . . at Nicholls State
N29 . . . . at SW Missouri St.
D2 . . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
D4 . . . . . New Mexico
D14 . . . . . at TCU
D17 . . . . . Texas-San Antonio
D21 . . . . . Fresno State*
D27-28 . . . . Cowboy Shootout
J4 . . . . . Baylor
J8 . . . . . at Oklahoma State
J11 . . . . . Colorado
J15 . . . . . at Oklahoma
J18 . . . . . at Kansas State
J20 . . . . . Oklahoma State
J25 . . . . . at Iowa State
J29 . . . . . Kansas
F3 . . . . . at Texas
F8 . . . . . Nebraska
F12 . . . . . at Texas A&M
F15 . . . . . at Baylor
F19 . . . . . Oklahoma
F22 . . . . . Texas
F25 . . . . . at Missouri
M2 . . . . . at Texas A&M
*Las Vegas

TOLEDO

N25 . . . . . at Old Dominion
N30 . . . . Charleston Southern
D2 . . . . . Heidelberg
D18 . . . . . Canisius
D21 . . . . . at Wright State
D23 . . . . . Cleveland State
D29-30 . . MVP Holiday Classic
J4 . . . . . Ball State
J8 . . . . . at Akron
J11 . . . . . Kent
J13 . . . . at Eastern Michigan
J15 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
J18 . . . . . Central Michigan
J22 . . . . . at Ohio U.
J25 . . . . . Bowling Green
J29 . . . . at Western Michigan
F1 . . . . . Akron
F5 . . . . . at Kent
F8 . . . . . Eastern Michigan
F12 . . . . . at Miami of Ohio
F15 . . . . at Central Michigan
F19 . . . . . Ohio U.
F22 . . . . at Bowling Green
F26 . . . . . Western Michigan
M1 . . . . . at Ball State

TOWSON STATE

N22 . . . . . Old Dominion
N24 . . . . . Navy
N26 . . . . at Md.-Baltimore Co.
N30 . . . . . at Maryland

D3 . . . . . at Pennsylvania
D6 . . . . . Boston University
D8 . . . . . Northeastern
D10 . . . . . Loyola (Md.)
D28 . . . . . James Madison
D30 . . . . . at West Virginia
J5 . . . . . at Delaware
J7 . . . . . at Drexel
J10 . . . . . Vermont
J12 . . . . . Hartford
J16 . . . . . at Maine
J18 . . . . at New Hampshire
J21 . . . . . Hofstra
J24 . . . . . at Northeastern
J26 . . . . at Boston University
J31 . . . . . at Hofstra
F2 . . . . . Drexel
F7 . . . . . at Vermont
F9 . . . . . at Hartford
F13 . . . . . New Hampshire
F15 . . . . . Maine
F22 . . . . . Delaware

TROY STATE

N22 . . . . . at Louisiana State
N29-30 . 1st Merchants Bank Cl.
D3 . . . . . at Alabama State
D6-7 . . . . . Pizza Hut Classic
D10 . . . . . at Arkansas
D13 . . . . . Loyola (La.)
D14 . . . . . Georgia State
D30 . . . . . at Georgia State
J2 . . . . . Valparaiso
J4 . . . . . Western Illinois
J6 . . . . . Mo.-Kansas City
J11 . . . . at Youngstown State
J13 . . . . . at Buffalo
J18 . . . . . NE Illinois
J20 . . . . . Chicago State
J25 . . . . . at Central Conn. St.
J28 . . . . . Alabama State
F1 . . . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
F6 . . . . . Buffalo
F8 . . . . . Youngstown State
F10 . . . . . at Chicago State
F12 . . . . . at NE Illinois
F17 . . . . . Central Conn. St.
F22 . . . . . at Western Illinois
F24 . . . . . at Valparaiso

TULANE

N22 . . . . . Texas-Arlington
N26 . . . . . Portland State
N29 . . . . . Butler*
N30 . . . American-Puerto Rico*
D1 . . . . . Villanova*
D4 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
D9 . . . . . at Temple
D19 . . . . . Centenary
D21 . . . . . at UNLV
D28 . . . . . Lafayette
D31 . . . . . Tulsa
J5 . . . . . at UAB
J8 . . . . . Nicholls State
J11 . . . . . Southern Miss
J13 . . . . . New Orleans
J16 . . . . . at Xavier
J18 . . . . . at South Florida
J22 . . . . . Saint Louis
J25 . . . . . UNC Charlotte
J27 . . . . . at Southern Miss
F1 . . . . . at Marquette
F6 . . . . . at Cincinnati
F9 . . . . . Arizona†
F13 . . . . . UAB
F16 . . . . . Memphis
F19 . . . . . at DePaul
F23 . . . . . at Houston
F26 . . . . . South Florida
M1 . . . . . Louisville
*San Juan, Puerto Rico
†Phoenix

TULSA

N20 . . . . . at UCLA*
D2 . . . . . Delaware State
D4 . . . . . at Houston
D7 . . . . . St. Joseph's†
D14 . . . . . Temple
D19 . . . . . at Wichita State
D27-28 . . . All-College Tourn.
D31 . . . . . at Tulane
J4 . . . . . at San Jose State
J8 . . . . . Southern Utah
J11 . . . . . Oral Roberts
J13 . . . . . Rice
J16 . . . . . New Mexico
J18 . . . . . Texas-El Paso
J25 . . . . . at Brigham Young
J27 . . . . . at Utah
J30 . . . . . SMU
F1 . . . . . TCU
F6 . . . . . at Rice
F10 . . . . . San Jose State
F13 . . . . . at Texas-El Paso
F16 . . . . . at New Mexico
F20 . . . . . Brigham Young
F22 . . . . . Utah
F27 . . . . . at TCU
M1 . . . . . at SMU
*Preseason NIT
†Atlantic City, N.J.

UCLA

N20 . . . . . Tulsa*
D3 . . . . . Cal State Fullerton
D7 . . . . . Kansas
D14 . . . . . Ohio U.
D17 . . . . . Jackson State
D21 . . . . . Illinois†
D23 . . . . . at Saint Louis
D28 . . . . . Morgan State
J2 . . . . . Washington State
J4 . . . . . Washington
J9 . . . . . at Stanford
J11 . . . . . at California
J16 . . . . . Arizona State
J18 . . . . . Arizona
J23 . . . . at Southern California
J25 . . . . . at Louisville
J30 . . . . . at Oregon
F1 . . . . . at Oregon State
F6 . . . . . California
F8 . . . . . Stanford
F15 . . . . . at Arizona

SCHEDULES

F17 . . . . . at Arizona State
F20 . . . . . Southern California
F22 . . . . . Duke
F27 . . . . . Oregon State
M1 . . . . . Oregon
M6 . . . . . at Washington
M8 . . . . . at Washington State
*Preseason NIT
†Chicago

UNLV

N23 . . . . . Cal State Northridge
N26 . . . . . Jacksonville
N29 . . . . . Miami (Fla.)
D7 . . . . . at UC Irvine
D14 . . . . . at Nevada
D18 . . . . . at Syracuse
D21 . . . . . Tulane
D23 . . . . . Southern Utah
D28 . . . . . Southern California
D30 . . . . . Northern Arizona
J2 . . . . . at San Jose State
J6 . . . . . at TCU
J9 . . . . . San Diego State
J11 . . . . . Hawaii
J18 . . . . . at Oklahoma State
J20 . . . . . at Fresno State
J25 . . . . . at Air Force
J30 . . . . . Colorado State
F1 . . . . . Wyoming
F6 . . . . . at Hawaii
F8 . . . . . at San Diego State
F15 . . . . . San Jose State
F17 . . . . . Fresno State
F20 . . . . . Air Force
F22 . . . . . TCU
F27 . . . . . at Wyoming
M1 . . . . . at Colorado State

UTAH

N23 . . . . . Azuza Pacific
N26 . . . . . at Utah State
N30 . . . . . at Cal State Fullerton
D4 . . . . . Southern Utah
D7 . . . . . Arizona*
D14 . . . . . Weber State
D21 . . . . . Texas
D23 . . . . Milwaukee-Wisconsin
D28 . . . . . UC Irvine
D31 . . . . . Wake Forest
J4 . . . . . Colorado State
J11 . . . . . at Brigham Young
J16 . . . . . at SMU
J18 . . . . . at TCU
J25 . . . . . Rice
J27 . . . . . Tulsa
J30 . . . . . at Texas-El Paso
F1 . . . . . at New Mexico
F6 . . . . . Brigham Young
F8 . . . . . at Colorado State
F13 . . . . . SMU
F15 . . . . . TCU
F22 . . . . . at Tulsa
F24 . . . . . at Rice
F27 . . . . . Texas-El Paso
M1 . . . . . New Mexico
*Los Angeles

UTAH STATE

N16 . . . . . Simon Fraser
N26 . . . . . Utah
N30 . . . Southern Calif. College
D3 . . . . . at Brigham Young
D7 . . . . . Humboldt State
D14 . . . . . Colorado State
D19 . . . . . at Weber State
D21 . . . . . at Wyoming
D27-28 . . . . Gossner Classic
J4 . . . . . at Southern Illinois
J9 . . . . . at Boise State
J11 . . . . . at Idaho
J16 . . . . . North Texas
J18 . . . . . New Mexico State
J23 . . . . . at Cal State Fullerton
J25 . . . . . at Hawaii
J30 . . . . . Cal Poly-SLO
F1 . . . . . UC Santa Barbara
F6 . . . . . at Pacific
F8 . . . . . at Long Beach State
F13 . . . . . UC Irvine
F15 . . . . . Nevada
F20 . . . . . Idaho
F22 . . . . . Boise State
F27 . . . . . at New Mexico State
M1 . . . . . at North Texas

VALPARAISO

N20 . . . . . at Vanderbilt*
N25 . . . . . at Canisius
D4 . . . . . Indiana Wesleyan
D7 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
D10 . . . . . Wis.-Green Bay
D14 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
D27-28 . . . . . Hoosier Classic
J2 . . . . . at Troy State
J4 . . . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
J6 . . . . . Youngstown State
J8 . . . . . Buffalo
J11 . . . . . at NE Illinois
J14 . . . . . at Chicago State
J18 . . . . . Central Conn. St.
J20 . . . . . at Oral Roberts
J25 . . . . . Western Illinois
J27 . . . . . Northland College
F1 . . . . . at Buffalo
F3 . . . . . at Youngstown State
F6 . . . . . Chicago State
F8 . . . . . NE Illinois
F12 . . . . . at Central Conn. St.
F15 . . . . . at Western Illinois
F22 . . . . . Mo.-Kansas City
F24 . . . . . Troy State
*Preseason NIT

VANDERBILT

N20 . . . . . Valparaiso*
D4 . . . . . UAB
D7 . . . . . at Memphis
D9 . . . . . at Boston College
D15 . . . . . Nicholls State
D19 . . . . . Alabama-Huntsville
D21 . . . . . Tennessee Tech
D23 . . . . . Mississippi Valley
D29 . . . . . at Evansville
D31 . . . . . Saint Louis
J4 . . . . . Alabama
J8 . . . . . Georgia
J11 . . . . . at Tennessee
J15 . . . . . at Louisiana State
J18 . . . . . Mississippi
J22 . . . . . at Kentucky
J25 . . . . . at Mississippi State
J29 . . . . . South Carolina
F1 . . . . . at Florida
F5 . . . . . Memphis
F8 . . . . . Arkansas
F12 . . . . . Tennessee
F15 . . . . . at Auburn
F19 . . . . . at Georgia
F22 . . . . . Kentucky
F26 . . . . . at South Carolina
M1 . . . . . Florida
*Preseason NIT

VERMONT

N22 . . . . . at Lehigh
N27 . . . . . Robert Morris
N30 . . . . . at Marist
D7 . . . . . Hartford
D9 . . . . . at Central Connecticut
D11 . . . . . St. Michael's
D22 . . . . . Harvard
D30 . . . . . Yale
J2 . . . . . at Hofstra
J4 . . . . . at Drexel
J7 . . . . . New Hampshire
J10 . . . . . at Towson State
J12 . . . . . at Delaware
J16 . . . . . Northeastern
J18 . . . . . Boston University
J21 . . . . . Dartmouth
J25 . . . . . at Hartford
J30 . . . . . at Maine
F2 . . . . . at New Hampshire
F6 . . . . . Towson State
F8 . . . . . Delaware
F13 . . . . . at Boston University
F15 . . . . . at Northeastern
F17 . . . . . Maine
F20 . . . . . Hofstra
F22 . . . . . Drexel

VILLANOVA

N29 . . . American-Puerto Rico*
N30 . . . . . Butler*
D1 . . . . . Tulane*
D4 . . . . . Providence
D7 . . . . . at St. John's
D10 . . . . . at Pennsylvania
D14 . . . . . Duke
D21 . . . . . Mount St. Mary's
D23 . . . . . St. Joseph's
D28 . . . . . Rider
D30 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
J2 . . . . . Seton Hall
J6 . . . . . at Providence
J8 . . . . . Oral Roberts
J11 . . . . . Miami (Fla.)
J14 . . . . . at Notre Dame
J18 . . . . . Rutgers
J20 . . . . . Syracuse†
J25 . . . . . at Boston College
J27 . . . . . at Georgetown
F1 . . . . . at Syracuse
F4 . . . . . West Virginia
F9 . . . . . at Kentucky
F12 . . . . . at Pittsburgh
F16 . . . . . Notre Dame
F19 . . . . . St. John's
F23 . . . . . Connecticut
F26 . . . . . at West Virginia
M1 . . . . . at Rutgers
*San Juan, Puerto Rico
†New York City

VIRGINIA

N25-27 . . . . Maui Invitational
N30 . . . . . at George Mason
D4 . . . . . at William & Mary
D7 . . . . . Clemson
D18 . . . . . Liberty
D21 . . . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
D23 . . . . . at Connecticut
D28 . . . . . Radford
D30 . . . . . Delaware
J2 . . . . . Loyola (Md.)
J4 . . . . . at Maryland
J8 . . . . . at Florida State
J11 . . . . . North Carolina
J15 . . . . . at Wake Forest
J18 . . . . . at Duke
J22 . . . . . Georgia Tech
J28 . . . . . North Carolina State
J30 . . . . . Richmond
F1 . . . . . Florida State
F6 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
F8 . . . . . at North Carolina
F11 . . . . . Duke
F15 . . . . . at Clemson
F19 . . . . at North Carolina State
F22 . . . . . Wake Forest
F25 . . . . . Virginia Tech*
M2 . . . . . Maryland
*Richmond, Va.

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH

N23 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
D2 . . . . . at Radford
D7 . . . . . Duquesne
D14 . . . . . at Pittsburgh
D18 . . . . . New Orleans
D21 . . . . . at Alabama
D27-28 . . . . . Cessna Classic
J2 . . . . . at George Mason
J6 . . . . . at William & Mary
J8 . . . . . at James Madison
J11 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
J15 . . . . . East Carolina
J18 . . . . . Old Dominion
J22 . . . . . at American
J25 . . . . . at Richmond
J27 . . . . . South Florida
J29 . . . . . George Mason
F1 . . . . . William & Mary
F5 . . . . . James Madison
F8 . . . . . American
F12 . . . . . at East Carolina
F15 . . . . . at Old Dominion
F19 . . . . . at UNC Wilmington
F24 . . . . . Richmond

VIRGINIA MILITARY

N22 . . . . . Albright College
N24 . . . . . at Wake Forest
D5 . . . . . Navy
D7 . . . . . Washington & Lee
D10 . . . . . at Radford
D15 . . . . . North Carolina
D18 . . . . . Eastern Mennonite
D21 . . . . . at Winthrop
D30 . . . . . at Florida International
J4 . . . . . at UNC Charlotte
J6 . . . . . at Appalachian State
J8 . . . . . at Richmond
J11 . . . . . UT-Chattanooga
J13 . . . . . Georgia Southern
J16 . . . . . at Wofford
J18 . . . . . at The Citadel
J20 . . . at East Tennessee State
J25 . . . . . at Furman
J27 . . . . . Marshall
F1 . . . . . at Davidson
F3 . . . . . Appalachian State
F8 . . . . . The Citadel
F10 . . . . . at Western Carolina
F15 . . . . . at Marshall
F17 . . . . . Davidson
F22 . . . . . East Tennessee State

VIRGINIA TECH

N29-30 . . Big Island Invitational
D5 . . . . . East Tennessee State
D7 . . . . . Coastal Carolina
D9 . . . . . UNC Greensboro
D14 . . . . . Georgia
D22 . . . . . at West Virginia
J2 . . . . . St. Bonaventure
J4 . . . . . at Xavier
J6 . . . . . at Duquesne
J9 . . . . . William & Mary
J12 . . . . . at Massachusetts
J15 . . . . . Georgia Southern
J18 . . . . . Rhode Island
J20 . . . . . La Salle
J23 . . . . . at Liberty
J25 . . . . . at St. Joseph's
J28 . . . . . at Wake Forest
F1 . . . . . Dayton
F4 . . . . . George Washington
F8 . . . . . at Fordham
F10 . . . . . at La Salle
F15 . . . . . at Dayton
F18 . . . . . Temple
F20 . . . at George Washington
F23 . . . . . Duquesne
F25 . . . . . Virginia*
M2 . . . . . Xavier
*Richmond, Va.

WAGNER

N26 . . . . . at Rutgers
N30-D1 . . Summit Bank Classic
D3 . . . . . Fairfield
D21 . . . . . Delaware State
D23 . . . . . at Seton Hall
D30 . . . . . Siena
J4 . . . . . at Rider
J6 . . . . . Monmouth
J9 . . . . . St. Francis (N.Y.)
J11 . . . . . Mt. St. Mary's
J15 . . . . . at Long Island
J18 . . . . . Robert Morris
J20 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
J23 . . . . at Fairleigh Dickinson
J25 . . . . . Marist
F1 . . . . . Rider
F3 . . . . . at Monmouth
F6 . . . . . at St. Francis (N.Y.)
F8 . . . . . at Mt. St. Mary's
F12 . . . . . Long Island U.
F15 . . . . . at Robert Morris
F17 . . . . . at St. Francis (Pa.)
F20 . . . . . Fairleigh Dickinson
F22 . . . . . at Marist

WAKE FOREST

N24 . . . . . Virginia Military
N25 . . . . . at The Citadel
N29 . . . . . Davidson
D1 . . . . . at Richmond
D3 . . . . . Mississippi State*
D7 . . . . . at North Carolina State
D14 . . . . . Massachusetts
D21 . . . . . Campbell
D31 . . . . . at Utah
J4 . . . . . North Carolina
J8 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
J11 . . . . . at Duke
J15 . . . . . Virginia
J19 . . . . . Maryland
J23 . . . . . at Clemson
J25 . . . . . Florida State
J28 . . . . . Virginia Tech
J29 . . . . . Wofford
F1 . . . . . at Maryland
F5 . . . . . Duke
F9 . . . . . at Missouri
F12 . . . . . Clemson
F16 . . . . . North Carolina State
F19 . . . . . at North Carolina
F22 . . . . . at Virginia
F25 . . . . . Georgia Tech
M1 . . . . . at Florida State
*Chicago

WASHINGTON

N26 . . . . . Brigham Young
N30 . . . . . Portland State
D3 . . . . . Idaho
D5 . . . . . at Old Dominion
D7 . . . . . at James Madison
D21 . . . . . at Portland
D23 . . . . . Loyola Marymount
D28 . . . . . Eastern Washington
J2 . . . . . at Southern California
J4 . . . . . at UCLA
J9 . . . . . Oregon State
J11 . . . . . Oregon
J18 . . . . . at Washington State
J23 . . . . . at Stanford
J25 . . . . . at California
J30 . . . . . Arizona State
F2 . . . . . Arizona
F6 . . . . . at Oregon
F8 . . . . . at Oregon State
F15 . . . . . Washington State
F20 . . . . . California
F22 . . . . . Stanford
F27 . . . . . at Arizona State
M2 . . . . . at Arizona
M6 . . . . . UCLA
M8 . . . . . Southern California

WASHINGTON STATE

N23 . . . . . Boise State
N30 . . . . . Gonzaga
D3 . . . . . UC Irvine
D7 . . . . . Eastern Washington
D10 . . . . . at Montana
D14 . . . . . Idaho
D22 . . . . . San Jose State
D27-30 . . . Outrigger Hotels Cl.
J2 . . . . . at UCLA
J4 . . . . . at Southern California
J9 . . . . . Oregon
J11 . . . . . Oregon State
J18 . . . . . Washington
J23 . . . . . at California
J25 . . . . . at Stanford
J30 . . . . . Arizona State
F1 . . . . . Arizona
F6 . . . . . at Oregon State
F8 . . . . . at Oregon
F15 . . . . . at Washington
F20 . . . . . Stanford
F22 . . . . . California
F27 . . . . . at Arizona
M1 . . . . . at Arizona State
M6 . . . . . Southern California
M8 . . . . . UCLA

WEBER STATE

N22 . . . . . Pepperdine
N26 . . . . . at Nebraska
N30 . . . . . at Nevada
D4 . . . . . Brigham Young
D7 . . . . . Boise State
D14 . . . . . at Utah
D19 . . . . . Utah State
D27-28 . . . Olds Spartan Classic
J2 . . . . . Montana State
J3 . . . . . Montana
J9 . . . . . Idaho State
J11 . . . . at Eastern Washington
J16 . . . . at Cal State Northridge
J18 . . . . at Northern Arizona
J22 . . . . Eastern Washington
J23 . . . . . Portland State
J29 . . . . . at Montana
F1 . . . . at Cal State Sacramento
F3 . . . . . at Portland State
F7 . . . . . Southern Utah
F12 . . . . . at Idaho State
F14 . . . . . at Montana State
F20 . . . . Cal State Northridge
F22 . . . . . Northern Arizona
F27 . . . . Cal State Sacramento

WESTERN CAROLINA

N23 . . . . . Anderson College
N27 . . . . . at Tennessee
D2 . . . . . Limestone
D14 . . . . . at Alabama
D15 . . . . . at Auburn
D17 . . . . . at Mercer
D22 . . . . at Austin Peay State
D30 . . . . . at Duke
J2 . . . . . at Kentucky
J6 . . . . . at The Citadel
J9 . . . . . at Wofford
J11 . . . . . Appalachian State
J13 . . . . . at Davidson
J18 . . . . . at Marshall
J20 . . . . . The Citadel
J25 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
J27 . . . . . Furman
F1 . . . . . at Georgia Southern
F3 . . . . . East Tennessee State
F5 . . . . . Wofford
F8 . . . . . at Appalachian State
F10 . . . . . Virginia Military
F15 . . . . . UT-Chattanooga
F17 . . . . . at Furman
F22 . . . . . Georgia Southern

WESTERN ILLINOIS

N22 . . . . . at Iowa
N26 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
D2 . . . . . at Eastern Illinois
D4 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
D14 . . . . . Cardinal Stritch
D23 . . . . . at Bradley
D27-28 . . . . All-College Tourn.
J2 . . . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
J4 . . . . . at Troy State
J8 . . . . . Youngstown State
J11 . . . . . at Chicago State
J12 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
J18 . . . . . Buffalo
J20 . . . . . Central Conn. St.
J22 . . . . . Southern Utah
J25 . . . . . at Valparaiso
F1 . . . . . at Youngstown State
F3 . . . . . at Buffalo
F6 . . . . . NE Illinois
F8 . . . . . Chicago State
F10 . . . . . at Central Conn. St.
F15 . . . . . Valparaiso
F22 . . . . . Troy State
F24 . . . . . Mo.-Kansas City

WESTERN KENTUCKY

N23 . . . . . at Xavier
N29 . . . . . UT-Martin
D2 . . . . . Belmont
D4 . . . . . Duquesne
D7 . . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
D21 . . . . . at Jacksonville
D23 . . . Texas-Pan American
D28 . . . . . Cincinnati*
J2 . . . . . at Lamar
J5 . . . . . at Butler
J9 . . . . . at New Orleans
J11 . . . . . at SW Louisiana
J16 . . . . . Lamar
J18 . . . . . South Alabama
J20 . . . . at Texas-Pan American
J25 . . . . . New Orleans
J27 . . . . at Arkansas-Little Rock
J30 . . . . . Jacksonville
F1 . . . . . at Louisiana Tech
F4 . . . . . at Clemson
F6 . . . . . Arkansas State
F9 . . . . . Arkansas-Little Rock
F11 . . . . Southwestern Louisana
F13 . . . . . at Arkansas State
F15 . . . . . Louisiana Tech
F22 . . . . . at South Alabama
*Cleveland

WESTERN MICHIGAN

N23 . . . . . at Canisius
N26 . . . . . Purdue
D2 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
D5 . . . . . at Ball State
D7 . . . . . Evansville
D18 . . . . . at Chicago State
D21 . . . . . Northern Illinois
D23 . . . . . Detroit
D28 . . . . . at Wright State
J4 . . . . . at Ohio U.
J8 . . . . . Bowling Green
J11 . . . . . at Central Michigan
J15 . . . . . Akron
J18 . . . . . at Kent
J22 . . . . . Eastern Michigan
J25 . . . . . at Miami of Ohio
J29 . . . . . Toledo
F1 . . . . . at Bowling Green
F5 . . . . . Central Michigan
F8 . . . . . Ball State
F12 . . . . . at Akron
F15 . . . . . Kent
F19 . . . . at Eastern Michigan
F22 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
F26 . . . . . at Toledo
M1 . . . . . Ohio U.

WEST VIRGINIA

N26 . . . . . at Minnesota
N30 . . . . . Ohio U.
D4 . . . . . at Syracuse
D14 . . . . East Tennessee State
D17 . . . . . at Marshall
D19 . . . . . Robert Morris
D22 . . . . . Virginia Tech
D30 . . . . . at Duquesne
J2 . . . . . Georgetown
J4 . . . . . at Connecticut
J8 . . . . . Seton Hall
J12 . . . . . at St. John's
J15 . . . . . Rutgers
J19 . . . . . at Providence
J22 . . . . . at Rutgers
J25 . . . . . Notre Dame
J29 . . . . . Boston College
F1 . . . . . Pittsburgh
F4 . . . . . at Villanova
F8 . . . . . Providence
F11 . . . . . at Notre Dame
F15 . . . . . Syracuse
F18 . . . . . Towson State
F22 . . . . . at Seton Hall
F26 . . . . . Villanova
M1 . . . . . at Miami (Fla.)

WICHITA STATE

N30 . . . . . SMU
D3 . . . . . at Kansas State
D7 . . . . . Cleveland State
D14 . . . . at Mississippi State
D19 . . . . . Tulsa
D21 . . . . . Prairie View A&M
D27-28 . . . . Cessna Classic
J2 . . . . . at Evansville
J4 . . . . . at Indiana State
J7 . . . . . Bradley
J11 . . . . . Creighton
J18 . . . . . Southwest Missouri
J22 . . . . . Drake
J25 . . . . . at Illinois State
J27 . . . . . at Bradley
J30 . . . . . Indiana State
F1 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
F5 . . . . . at Southern Illinois
F8 . . . . . Illinois State
F10 . . . . . at Drake
F15 . . . . . Evansville
F17 . . . . . Southern Illinois
F20 . . . . . at Creighton
F22 . . . at Southwest Missouri
F24 . . . . . Northern Iowa

WILLIAM & MARY

N25 . . . . . at Hampton
N27 . . . . . at Stetson
N30 . . . . . The Citadel
D2 . . . . . Catholic
D4 . . . . . Virginia
D27-28 . . . . Tribune Classic
J2 . . . . . at East Carolina
J4 . . . . . James Madison
J6 . . . . . Va. Commonwealth
J9 . . . . . at Virginia Tech
J11 . . . . . at Richmond
J13 . . . . . at Navy
J16 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
J22 . . . . . at Old Dominion
J25 . . . . . at George Mason
J29 . . . . . at UNC Wilmington
F1 . . . . . at Va. Commonwealth
F5 . . . . . Old Dominion
F8 . . . . . Richmond
F10 . . . . . American
F15 . . . . . George Mason
F19 . . . . . at James Madison
F22 . . . . . at American
F24 . . . . . East Carolina

WINTHROP

N22 . . . . . at Syracuse
N25 . . . . . Virginia Intermont
N27 . . . . . at Central Florida
D3 . . . . . at North Carolina State
D7 . . . . . Johnson and Wales
D12 . . . . . at The Citadel
D16 . . . . . Georgia State
D21 . . Virginia Military Institute
D30 . . . . . at Auburn
J2 . . . . . Southern Wesleyan
J4 . . . . . Bryan
J6 . . . . . Florida Atlantic
J11 . . . . . Coastal Carolina
J15 . . . . . at UNC Asheville
J18 . . . . . at Liberty
J22 . . . . . Radford
J25 . . . . at Md.-Baltimore Co.
J30 . . . . at Charleston Southern
F1 . . . . . Md.-Baltimore Co.
F3 . . . . . at UNC Greensboro
F8 . . . . . Liberty
F10 . . . . . at Radford
F13 . . . . . Charleston Southern
F15 . . . . . UNC Greensboro
F20 . . . . . at Coastal Carolina
F22 . . . . . UNC Asheville

WISCONSIN

N23 . . . . . Memphis*
N30 . . . . . UNC Wilmington
D4 . . . . . at Temple
D7 . . . . . Brown
D10 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
D14 . . . . . at St. Bonaventure
D23 . . . . . Providence
D26 . . . . . Ball State
D31 . . . . . at Marquette
J2 . . . . . at Minnesota
J4 . . . . . Indiana
J9 . . . . . Michigan State
J11 . . . . . at Iowa
J18 . . . . . Penn State
J22 . . . . . at Purdue
J25 . . . . . at Illinois
J29 . . . . . Northwestern
F1 . . . . . at Ohio State
F6 . . . . . Michigan
F8 . . . . . at Northwestern
F12 . . . . . Illinois
F15 . . . . . Purdue
F19 . . . . . at Penn State
F26 . . . . . Iowa
M1 . . . . . at Michigan State
M5 . . . . . at Indiana
M8 . . . . . Minnesota
*Ottawa

WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

N22 . . . . . Northern Michigan
N25 . . . . . at Northern Iowa
N30 . . . . . Oregon
D3 . . . . . NE Illinois
D7 . . . . . Western Kentucky
D10 . . . . . at Valparaiso
D14 . . . . . at Marquette
D21 . . . . . Illinois State
D30-31 . . . Pepsi Oneida Classic
J4 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
J6 . . . . . at Wright State
J9 . . . . . Cleveland State
J11 . . . . . Detroit
J16 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
J18 . . . . . at Butler
J25 . . . . . Loyola of Chicago
J27 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
J30 . . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
F1 . . . . . at Illinois-Chicago
F6 . . . . . at Cleveland State
F10 . . . . . Northern Illinois
F16 . . . . . at Detroit
F18 . . . . . Butler
F20 . . . . . Wright State
F24 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee

WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE

N22 . . . . . Minnesota-Morris
N24 . . . . . at Marquette
N26 . . . . . Western Illinois
N30 . . . . . Stetson
D4 . . . . . at Western Illinois
D7 . . . . . at Valparaiso
D10 . . . . . at Wisconsin
D12 . . . . . NE Illinois
D23 . . . . . at Utah
D30 . . . . at Texas-San Antonio
J4 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
J9 . . . . . Detroit
J11 . . . . . Cleveland State
J16 . . . . . at Butler
J18 . . . . . Wright State
J23 . . . . . at Illinois Chicago
J27 . . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
F3 . . . . . Northern Illinois
F6 . . . . . at Detroit
F8 . . . . . at Cleveland State
F13 . . . . . at Wright State
F15 . . . . . Butler
F17 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
F22 . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
F24 . . . . . Wis.-Green Bay

WOFFORD

N22 . . . . . at Georgia Tech
N25 . . . . . Tusculum
N27 . . . . . at Richmond
D2 . . . . . at South Carolina
D5 . . . . . Montreat
D7 . . . . . Navy
D17 . . . at East Tennessee State
D20 . . . . . at Clemson
J6 . . . . . at UT-Chattanooga
J9 . . . . . Western Carolina
J13 . . . . . Charleston
J18 . . . . . King
J20 . . . . . Campbell
J22 . . . . . Furman
J25 . . . East Tennessee State
J29 . . . . . at Wake Forest
F1 . . . . . Tennessee
F5 . . . . . at Western Carolina
F8 . . . . . Army
F10 . . . . . at Mercer
F12 . . . . . Virginia Military
F17 . . . . . Mercer
F19 . . . . . Richmond
F22 . . . . . at Air Force
F24 . . . . . at Colorado
M1 . . . . at North Carolina State

WRIGHT STATE

N22 . . . . . at Kentucky
N30 . . . . . Thomas More
D11 . . . . . Bowling Green
D14 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
D16 . . . . . at Louisville
D18 . . . . . at Ohio U.
D21 . . . . . Toledo
D28 . . . . . Western Michigan
D30 . . . . . at Youngstown State
J2 . . . . . at Detroit
J4 . . . . . at Cleveland State
J6 . . . . . Wis.-Green Bay
J11 . . . . . Northern Illinois
J16 . . . . . Illinois-Chicago
J18 . . . . . at Wis.-Milwaukee
J23 . . . . . at Loyola of Chicago
J25 . . . . . Butler
J30 . . . . . Detroit
F1 . . . . . Cleveland State
F6 . . . . . at Illinois-Chicago
F8 . . . . . at Northern Illinois
F13 . . . . . Wis.-Milwaukee
F20 . . . . . at Wis.-Green Bay
F22 . . . . . at Butler
F24 . . . . . Loyola of Chicago

WYOMING

N23 . . . . . Delaware State
N25 . . . . . at Long Beach State
N30 . . . . . Northern Colorado
D3 . . . . . at St. Joseph's
D9 . . . . . Colorado
D14 . . . . . Denver
D19 . . . . . at Montana State
D21 . . . . . at Utah State
D27-28 . . . . Cowboy Shootout
J4 . . . . . Brigham Young
J11 . . . . . at Colorado State
J16 . . . . . at San Diego State
J18 . . . . . at Hawaii
J23 . . . . . San Jose State
J25 . . . . . Fresno State
J30 . . . . . at Air Force
F1 . . . . . at UNLV
F6 . . . . . Colorado State
F8 . . . . . at Brigham Young
F13 . . . . . Hawaii
F15 . . . . . San Diego State
F20 . . . . . at Fresno State
F22 . . . . . at San Jose State
F27 . . . . . UNLV
M1 . . . . . Air Force

XAVIER

N26 . . . . . at Cincinnati
N30 . . . . . Miami of Ohio
D2 . . . . . Florida A&M
D5 . . . . . at Loyola Marymount
D10 . . . . . Long Island U.
D14 . . . . . Hofstra
D21 . . . . . at Akron
D29 . . . . . Kansas State
J4 . . . . . Virginia Tech
J7 . . . . . at Dayton
J11 . . . . . at Fordham
J16 . . . . . Tulane
J19 . . . . . Temple
J23 . . . at George Washington
J25 . . . . . Duquesne
J28 . . . . . Rhode Island
F1 . . . . . at Massachusetts
F3 . . . . . at La Salle
F8 . . . . . at St. Joseph's
F12 . . . . . Dayton
F15 . . . . . George Washington
F20 . . . . . at Duquesne
F22 . . . . . La Salle
F27 . . . . . St. Bonaventure
M2 . . . . . at Virginia Tech

YALE

N22 . . . . . Hartford
N26 . . . . . at Holy Cross
N29 . . . . . at Connecticut
D1 . . . . . Swarthmore
D4 . . . . . Lehigh
D6-7 . . . . Pepsi-Marist Classic
D10 . . . . . at Army
D30 . . . . . at Vermont
J6 . . . . . at SMU
J10 . . . . . Pennsylvania
J11 . . . . . Princeton
J13 . . . . . Lafayette
J18 . . . . . at Brown
J23 . . . . . Siena
J25 . . . . . Brown
J31 . . . . . at Dartmouth
F1 . . . . . at Harvard
F7 . . . . . Columbia
F8 . . . . . Cornell
F14 . . . . . at Princeton
F15 . . . . . at Pennsylvania
F21 . . . . . at Cornell
F22 . . . . . at Columbia
F28 . . . . . Harvard
M1 . . . . . Dartmouth

YOUNGSTOWN STATE

N26 . . . . . at Notre Dame
N30 . . . . . St. Francis (Pa.)
D3 . . . . . at St. Francis (Pa.)
D7 . . . . . LaRoche
D13 . . . . . Maine
D16 . . . . . at Cleveland State
D21 . . . . . at Stetson
D23 . . . . . at Central Florida
D30 . . . . . Wright State
J2 . . . . . Central Connecticut
J6 . . . . . at Valparaiso
J8 . . . . . Western Illinois
J11 . . . . . Troy State
J13 . . . . . Mo.-Kansas City
J18 . . . . . Siena
J22 . . . . . at Buffalo
J25 . . . . . at NE Illinois
J27 . . . . . at Chicago State
F1 . . . . . Western Illinois
F3 . . . . . Valparaiso
F6 . . . . . at Mo.-Kansas City
F8 . . . . . at Troy State
F12 . . . . . Buffalo
F15 . . . . . Chicago State
F17 . . . . . NE Illinois
F24 . . . . at Central Connecticut

100 PERCENT RECYCLED STOCK

1996-97 IN-SEASON TOURNAMENTS

*—Denotes host team.

November 20-29

Preseason NIT (First- and second-round games to be played at campus sites; semifinals and finals to be played in New York) Arkansas-Little Rock at Saint Louis, Drexel at Evansville, St. Joseph's at Duke, Princeton at Indiana, St. Mary's at Oklahoma State, Tulsa at UCLA, Iona at Seton Hall, Valparaiso at Vanderbilt.

November 22-23

Lobo Classic (Albuquerque, N.M.) New Mexico* vs. Columbia, Eastern Washington vs. Grambling State.

November 22-23

Red Auerbach Colonial Classic (Washington, D.C.) George Washington* vs. Holy Cross, Boston University vs. Florida A&M.

November 22-24

Top of the World Classic (Fairbanks, Alaska) Alaska-Fairbanks* vs. Providence, Baylor vs. Southern Illinois, Middle Tennessee State vs. Montana, Alabama vs. UNC Wilmington.

November 25-27

Maui Invitational (Maui, Hawaii) Chaminade* vs. Massachusetts, California vs. Iowa, Louisiana State vs. Kansas, Virginia vs. South Carolina.

November 27-30

Great Alaska Shootout (Anchorage, Alaska) Alaska-Anchorage* vs. Maine, Arizona State vs. Charleston, Stanford vs. UNC Greensboro, Kentucky vs. Syracuse.

November 29-30

Coors Light Classic (Fresno, Calif.) Fresno State* vs. Northeastern, Cal Poly-SLO vs. Liberty.

November 29-30

First Merchant's Bank Classic (Muncie, Ind.) Ball State* vs. Coastal Carolina, Southwest Texas State vs. Troy State.

November 29-December 1

Big Island Invitational (Hilo, Hawaii) Hawaii-Hilo* vs. Virginia Tech, Auburn vs. Colorado, Illinois vs. TCU, Louisville vs. Montana State.

November 29-December 1

San Juan Shootout (San Juan, Puerto Rico) Clemson, Creighton, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, Missouri, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, UT-Chattanooga.

November 29- December 1

United Airlines Tip-Off Classic (Honolulu) Hawaii* vs. Detroit, Austin Peay vs. Portland.

November 30-December 1

Summit Bank Classic (Jersey City, N.J.) St. Peter's* vs. Florida International, Dartmouth vs. Wagner.

December 5-6

Cyclone Challenge (Ames, Iowa) Iowa State* vs. UT-Martin, Siena vs. Stephen F. Austin.

December 5-7

Gaucho Classic (Santa Barbara, Calif.) UC Santa Barbara* vs. Akron, Rider vs. Westmont (Calif.).

December 6-7

Ameritas Classic (Lincoln, Neb.) Nebraska* vs. Coppin State, Bowling Green vs. Colgate.

December 6-7

Bank One-Foothills Dodge Ram Classic (Fort Collins, Colo.) Colorado State* vs. Cal State Sacramento, Gonzaga vs. Texas-San Antonio.

December 6-7

Boilermaker Invitational (West Lafayette, Ind.) Purdue* vs. Cornell, Long Beach State vs. Mercer.

December 6-7

Dr Pepper Invitational (Waco, Texas) Baylor* vs. NE Louisiana, Miami of Ohio vs. Texas Southern.

December 6-7

First Bank Classic (Milwaukee) Marquette* vs. Prairie View, Princeton vs. Rice.

December 6-7

Harris Teeter Pepsi Challenge (Charlotte, N.C.) UNC Charlotte* vs. South Carolina, North Carolina vs. Southern California.

December 6-7

Hawaii Invitational (Honolulu) Hawaii* vs. Alabama State, McNeese State vs. St. Mary's.

December 6-7

Hawkeye Invitational (Iowa City, Iowa) Iowa* vs. Grambling State, La Salle vs. Southern Miss.

December 6-7

Illini/Pepsi Classic (Champaign, Ill.) Illinois* vs. Columbia, Central Michigan vs. Tennessee State.

December 6-7

Met Life Classic (San Francisco) San Francisco* vs. New Orleans, Fairfield vs. Santa Clara.

December 6-7

Missoulian/Coca-Cola Classic (Missoula, Mont.) Montana*, American, Oral Roberts, Southern Utah.

December 6-7

Pepsi-Marist Classic (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) Marist* vs. Lafayette, Charleston Southern vs. Yale.

December 6-7

Pizza Hut Classic (Springfield, Mo.) Southwest Missouri State* vs. Morehead State, Mississippi Valley State vs. Troy State.

December 8-9

Franklin National Bank Classic (Landover, Md.) George Washington* vs. Mississippi State, California vs. Maryland.

December 13-14

Carrier Classic (Syracuse, N.Y.) Syracuse* vs. Pepperdine, Eastern Michigan vs. Old Dominion.

December 13-14

Cougar Classic (Provo, Utah) Brigham Young*, Boise State, Houston, St. Mary's.

December 13-14

Indiana Classic (Bloomington, Ind.) Indiana* vs. Louisiana Tech, Eastern Illinois vs. Santa Clara.

December 14-15

Hawaii-Nike Festival (Honolulu) Hawaii* vs. Cal Poly-SLO, UAB vs. Ball State.

December 20-21

South Florida Holiday Invitational (Tampa) South Florida* vs. St. Francis (N.Y.), Central Connecticut State vs. Central Michigan.

December 20-21

UAB Classic (Birmingham, Ala.) UAB* vs. Stephen F. Austin, Jacksonville State vs. Long Island University.

December 21-22

Iowa State Holiday Classic (Ames, Iowa) Iowa State* vs. East Tennessee State, Nevada vs. Texas-El Paso.

December 26-28

ECAC Holiday Festival (New York) St. John's vs. Manhattan, Georgia Tech vs. Hofstra.

December 27-28

Albertson's Holiday Classic (Boise, Idaho) Boise State* vs. Campbell, Gonzaga vs. Idaho State.

December 27-28

All-College Tournament (Oklahoma City) Oklahoma* vs. Western Illinois, Southwest Texas State vs. Tulsa.

December 27-28

Bow Tie Classic (Emmitsburg, Md.) Mount St. Mary's* vs. UNC Asheville, Maine vs. UNC Wilmington.

December 27-28

Cable Car Classic (Santa Clara, Calif.) Santa Clara* vs. Detroit, Alabama vs. San Jose State.

December 27-28

Far West Classic (Portland, Ore.) Oregon* vs. Temple, Bradley vs. Oregon State.

December 27-28

Golden Bear Classic (Berkeley, Calif.) California* vs. Howard, Cal Poly-SLO vs. La Salle.

December 27-28

Gossner Classic (Logan, Utah) Utah State* vs. Portland, Samford vs. Texas Southern.

December 27-28

Hoosier Classic (Indianapolis) Indiana* vs. Colgate, Army vs. Valparaiso.

December 27-28

Iona-Pepsi Classic (New Rochelle, N.Y.) Iona*, Eastern Kentucky, Northeastern, Richmond.

December 27-28

Lobo Invitational (Albuquerque, N.M.) New Mexico* vs. Bucknell, Appalachian State vs. Mississippi.

December 27-28

Olds Spartan Classic (East Lansing, Mich.) Michigan State* vs. Kent, Coppin State vs. Weber State.

December 27-28

Sierra Medical Center Classic (El Paso, Texas) Texas-El Paso* vs. Northern Iowa, Princeton vs. Texas A&M.

December 27-28

Sports Foundation Classic (Tampa) South Florida* vs. Monmouth, Boston University vs. Loyola (Md.).

December 27-28

Tribune Classic (Tempe, Ariz.) Arizona State* vs. William & Mary, UAB vs. St. Bonaventure.

December 27-28

UNO Christmas Classic (New Orleans) New Orleans* vs. Harvard, Hampton vs. Holy Cross.

December 27-30

Outrigger Hotels Rainbow Classic (Honolulu) Hawaii* vs. Northwestern, Maryland vs. Pittsburgh, Memphis vs. Michigan, Georgia vs. Washington State.

December 28-29

Bobcat Holiday Classic (Bozeman, Mont.) Montana State* vs. Cornell, Air Force vs. Tennessee Tech.

December 28-29

Cessna Classic (Wichita, Kan.) Wichita State* vs. Sam Houston State, Texas Christian vs. Virginia Commonwealth.

December 28-29

Cowboy Shootout (Laramie, Wyo.) Wyoming*, New Mexico State, Texas Tech, TBA.

December 28-29

Dr Pepper Classic (Chattanooga, Tenn.) UT-Chattanooga* vs. Coastal Carolina, Canisius vs. Central Florida.

December 28-29

Franklin Life Classic (Charleston, S.C.) Charleston vs. Drexel, Northern Illinois vs. UNC Greensboro.

December 28-30

Bank One Fiesta Bowl Classic (Tucson, Ariz.) Arizona* vs. Robert Morris, Florida vs. Penn.

December 29-30

Meadowlands Tournament (East Rutherford, N.J.) Seton Hall* vs. Alaska, Rhode Island vs. San Francisco.

December 29-30

MVP Holiday Classic (Toledo, Ohio) Toledo* vs. Georgia Southern, Buffalo vs. Dartmouth.

December 30-31

Pepsi Oneida Bingo & Casino Classic (Green Bay, Wis.) Wisconsin-Green Bay* vs. Pepperdine, Austin Peay vs. St. Joseph's.

December 30-January 1

San Juan Classic (San Juan, Puerto Rico) Bowling Green vs. Mississippi State, Cincinnati vs. Southeast Missouri State, Nebraska vs. Old Dominion, Fresno State vs. Southwest Missouri State.

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- Top ten underclassmen at each position.
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1996 NCAA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FIRST ROUND

Stanford 66, Bradley 58
Massachusetts 92, Central Florida 70
Arkansas 86, Penn State 80
Marquette 68, Monmouth, N.J. 44
Georgetown 93, Mississippi Valley State 56
New Mexico 69, Kansas State 48
Texas Tech 74, Northern Illinois 73
North Carolina 83, New Orleans 62
Connecticut 68, Colgate 59
Eastern Michigan 75, Duke 60
Mississippi State 58, Virginia Commonwealth 51
Princeton 43, UCLA 41
Temple 61, Oklahoma 43
Cincinnati 66, North Carolina-Greensboro 61
Boston College 64, Indiana 51
Georgia Tech 90, Austin Peay 79
Kentucky 110, San Jose State 72
Virginia Tech 61, Wisconsin-Green Bay 48
Iowa State 74, California 64
Utah 72, Canisius 43
Louisville 82, Tulsa 80, OT
Villanova 92, Portland 58
Wake Forest 62, Northeast Louisiana 50
Texas 80, Michigan 76
Syracuse 88, Montana State 55
Drexel 75, Memphis 63
Purdue 73, Western Carolina 71
Georgia 81, Clemson 74
Santa Clara 91, Maryland 79
Kansas 92, South Carolina State 54
Iowa 81, George Washington 79
Arizona 90, Valparaiso 51

SECOND ROUND

Massachusetts 79, Stanford 74
Arkansas 65, Marquette 56
Georgetown 73, New Mexico 62
Texas Tech 92, North Carolina 73
Connecticut 95, Eastern Michigan 81
Mississippi State 63, Princeton 41
Cincinnati 78, Temple 65
Georgia Tech 103, Boston College 89
Utah 73, Iowa State 67
Kentucky 84, Virginia Tech 60
Louisville 68, Villanova 64
Wake Forest 65, Texas 62
Georgia 76, Purdue 69
Syracuse 69, Drexel 58
Arizona 87, Iowa 73
Kansas 76, Santa Clara 51

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Georgetown 98, Texas Tech 90
Massachusetts 79, Arkansas 63
Mississippi St. 60, Connecticut 55
Cincinnati 87, Georgia Tech 70
Kentucky 101, Utah 70
Wake Forest 60, Louisville 59
Syracuse 83, Georgia 81, OT
Kansas 83, Arizona 80

REGIONAL FINALS

Massachusetts 86, Georgetown 62
Mississippi State 73, Cincinnati 63
Syracuse 60, Kansas 57
Kentucky 83, Wake Forest 63

FINAL FOUR/SEMIFINALS

Syracuse 77, Mississippi State 69
Kentucky 81, Massachusetts 74

CHAMPIONSHIP

Kentucky 76, Syracuse 67

1996 NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT RESULTS

FIRST ROUND

George Washington 83, Maine 67
Virginia 100, Manhattan 55
Ohio State 97, Memphis 75
Tennessee 97, Radford 56
Texas 73, Southwest Missouri State 55
Kansas 72, Middle Tennessee State 57
Toledo 65, Mississippi 53
Old Dominion 83, Holy Cross 66
Wisconsin 74, Oregon 60
Vanderbilt 100, Harvard 83
DePaul 96, Southern Methodist 82
Iowa 72, Butler 67
Michigan State 60, Massachusetts 57, OT
Connecticut 94, Howard 63
San Francisco 68, Florida 61
Duke 85, James Madison 53
Notre Dame 73, Purdue 60
Texas Tech 78, Portland 61
Oklahoma State 90, Rhode Island 82
Georgia 98, St. Francis, Pa. 66
Southern Mississippi 74, Utah 66
Louisiana Tech 98, Central Florida 41
Stephen F. Austin 67, Oregon State 65
Clemson 79, Austin Peay 52
North Carolina State 77, Montana 68
Alabama 95, Appalachian State 66
Auburn 73, Hawaii 53
Colorado 83, Tulane 75
Kent 72, Texas A&M 68
Penn State 94, Youngstown State 74
Colorado State 66, Nebraska 62
Stanford 82, Grambling State 43

SECOND ROUND

Virginia 62, George Washington 43
Tennessee 97, Ohio State 65
Kansas 77, Texas 70
Old Dominion 72, Toledo 66
Vanderbilt 96, Wisconsin 83
Iowa 72, DePaul 71
Connecticut 88, Michigan St. 68
San Francisco 64, Duke 60
Texas Tech 82, Notre Dame 67
Georgia 83, Oklahoma State 55
Louisiana Tech 84, Southern Miss. 46
Stephen F. Austin 93, Clemson 88, OT
Alabama 88, North Carolina State 68
Auburn 68, Colorado 61, OT
Penn State 86, Kent 59
Stanford 94, Colorado St. 63

REGIONAL SEMIFINALS

Tennessee 92, Kansas 71
Virginia 72, Old Dominion 60
Vanderbilt 74, Iowa 63
Connecticut 72, San Francisco 44
Louisiana Tech 66, Texas Tech 55
Georgia 78, Stephen F. Austin 64
Auburn 75, Penn State 69
Stanford 78, Alabama 76, OT

REGIONAL FINALS

Tennessee 52, Virginia 46
Connecticut 67, Vanderbilt 57
Georgia 90, Louisiana Tech 76
Stanford 71, Auburn 57

FINAL FOUR/SEMIFINALS

Tennessee 88, Connecticut 83, OT
Georgia 86, Stanford 76

CHAMPIONSHIP

Tennessee 83, Georgia 65

1997 NCAA TOURNAMENT

FIRST AND SECOND ROUNDS

East Regional

March 13 and 15: Lawrence Joel Coliseum, Winston-Salem, N.C. (for tickets: 910-725-5635).
March 14 and 16: Pittsburgh Civic Arena, Pittsburgh (sold out).

Southeast Regional

March 13 and 15: The Pyramid, Memphis, Tenn. (901-678-2331).
March 14 and 16: Charlotte Coliseum, Charlotte, N.C. (704-357-4801).

Midwest Regional

March 13 and 15: Palace of Auburn Hills, Auburn Hills, Mich. (sold out).
March 14 and 16: Kemper Arena, Kansas City, Mo. (913-864-3141).

West Regional

March 13 and 15: Huntsman Center, Salt Lake City (801-581-8849).
March 14 and 16: McKale Center, Tucson, Ariz. (520-621-2287).

REGIONALS

East

Carrier Dome (800-273-7027), Syracuse, N.Y., March 21 and 23.

Southeast

Birmingham-Jefferson County Civic Center (sold out), Birmingham, Ala., March 21 and 23.

Midwest

Alamodome (800-884-3663), San Antonio, March 22 and 24.

West

San Jose Arena (408-287-9200), San Jose, Calif., March 22 and 24.

FINAL FOUR

RCA Dome (sold out), Indianapolis

Semifinals, March 29

East vs. Southeast and West vs. Midwest. First semifinal at about 5:42 p.m. EST

Final, March 31

Semifinal winners, tipoff at about 8:20 p.m. EST

DIVISION I WOMEN

First and second rounds at campus sites.

REGIONALS, March 22 and 24

EAST: Frank McGuire Arena, Columbia, S.C.
MIDEAST: Mackey Arena, West Lafayette, Ind.
MIDWEST: Carver-Hawkeye Arena, Iowa City, Iowa.
WEST: Dahlberg Arena, Missoula, Mont.

FINAL FOUR, March 28 and 30

Riverfront Coliseum, Cincinnati.

DIVISION II AND III MEN

First and second rounds at campus sites.
Division II finals: March 19-20, 22, Commonwealth Convention center, Louisville
Division III finals: March 21-22, Salem Civic Center, Salem, Va.

DIVISION II AND III WOMEN

Early rounds at campus sites.
Division II finals: March 19-20, 22; at campus site to be determined after regionals.
Division III finals: March 21-22; at campus site to be determined after regionals.

FUTURE FINAL FOUR SITES

1998: Alamodome, San Antonio.
1999: Thunderdome, St. Petersburg, Fla.
2000: RCA Dome, Indianapolis.
2001: Metrodome, Minneapolis.
2002: Georgia Dome, Atlanta.

NEW DIGS

Transfers from four-year schools who should play a big role for their new team:

PLAYER	POS.	OLD SCHOOL	NEW SCHOOL
Sotiris Aggelou	G	Pitt	St. Francis (Pa.)
Quincy Alexander	F	UNC Charlotte	Lamar
Dwayne Austin	G	DePaul	Northern Illinois
Ben Baum	C	Oklahoma State	New Mexico
Adam Benton	G	Providence	Akron
Carlos Bradberry	G	Niagara	New Hampshire
Andre Brown	G	Seton Hall	Nicholls State
Tremaine Byrd	F	Boston U.	Morgan State
Geoff Byrne	F	Kent	Santa Clara
Eric Carpenter	F	James madison	Marshall
Jimmy Carroll	G	Utah	Nevada
Maurice Curtis	F	West Virginia	Fordham
Bobby Crawford	G	Michigan	Rice
Duane Davis	G	Arizona State	Kansas State
Keith Davis	G/F	Va. Commonwealth	Delaware
Tommie Davis	G	Houston	Long Beach State
Alico Dunk	G	Tennessee	East Carolina
Tye Fields	F	Oral Roberts	San Diego State
Alfred Forbes	F	Army	Wofford
Cedric Foster	G	Alcorn State	Mississippi Valley
Prince Fowler	G	Oklahoma	TCU
Anddriik Frazier	G	Vanderbilt	South Florida
Newton Gayle	C	Niagara	Mt. St. Mary's
L.J. Goolsby	G	Mississippi	Wichita State
Paul Grant	C	Boston College	Wisconsin
Chris Griffin	G	Washington State	Kansas State
Josh Hallatt	C	Indiana State	Austin Peay
Steve Hart	G	Indiana	Indiana State
Derrick Hayes	G	Iowa State	Detroit
Chris Herren	G	Boston College	Fresno State
David Hickman	F	Iowa State	Idaho State
Keith Higgins	G/F	Colorado	Cal State Northridge
Ben Holmstrom	F	Miami (Ohio)	Illinois State
Darnell Hoskins	G	Wisconsin	Dayton
Hassan Jarret	F	Rhode Island	Siena
Corrie Johnson	G	East Tennessee State	Tennessee State
Mark Johnson	G	Old Dominion	Mercer
Charles Jones	G	Rutgers	Long Island U.
Jason Kimbrough	G	Iowa State	Western Michigan
Andre Lewis	F	Western Kentucky	SE Louisiana
Monte Marcaccini	F/G	Pepperdine	Virginia
Kevin Martin*	F	Ohio State	UNC Asheville
John McDonald	G	Loyola (Md.)	Iona
Roshown McLeod	F	St. John's	Duke
Josh Merrill	F	Pepperdone	UC Santa Barbara
Steve Meyer	G	New Orleans	Texas-San Antonio
Danny Moore	F/C	Miami (Ohio)	SW Missouri
Lou Moore	F	Indiana	Oklahoma
Eric Morgan	G	Youngstown State	NE Louisiana
John Morrison	F	Tennessee State	Detroit
Eric Myles*	G	Georgetown	SE Louisiana
Steve Napper	F	Winthrop	Robert Morris
Makhtar Ndiaye	C/F	Michigan	North Carolina
John Nelson†	C	Oklahoma State	SW Missouri
Derick Newton	F	La Salle	Towson State
Ike Nwankwo*	C	UCLA	Long Beach State
Felix Okam	C	Alabama State	UAB
Chris Oney	G	Texas A&M	Mississippi
Duane Posey	F	Fairleigh Dickinson	Hofstra
Donta Randle	G	Drake	UTEP
Rodrick Rhodes	F	Kentucky	USC
Jalil Roberts	G	Wisconsin	Seton Hall
Brett Robisch*	F/C	Illinois	Oklahoma State
Johnnie Rogers	F	Jackson State	Mississippi
Jarvis Sanni	F	Arizona	Rice
Skipp Schaefbauer	G	East Carolina	Illinois State
Jimmy Sexton	G	Creighton	Illinois-Chicago
Robert Shelton	G	Ohio State	Va. Commonwealth
Matt Simons	C	Louisville	Eastern Kentucky
Jared Stinson	G/F	Manhattan	Delaware
Brian Towne	G	Washington	Portland State
Riley Trone	G	George Mason	James Madison
Wyki Tyson	C	Eastern Kentucky	Fullerton State
Peter Van Elswyk	F	South Carolina	Stanford
Steve Walston	C	Arizona State	Tennessee State

***—eligible second semester; †—may be eligible second semester.**

CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

LEAGUE (NUMBER OF TEAMS IN TOURNAMENT)	DATES	SITE OF FINALS
America East (10)	Feb. 28, March 1-2, 7	To be determined*
Atlantic Coast (9)	March 6-9	Greensboro, N.C.
Atlantic 10 (12)	March 5-8	Philadelphia
Big East (13)	March 5-8	New York
Big Sky (6)	March 6-8	To be determined†
Big South (8)	Feb. 28-March 2	Lynchburg, Va.
Big 12 (12)	March 6-9	Kansas City, Mo.
Big West (8)	March 7-9	Reno, Nev.
Colonial Athletic Association (9)	Feb. 27-March 3	Richmond, Va.
Conference USA (12)	March 5-8	St. Louis
Metro Atlantic Athletic (8)	March 1-3	Buffalo
Mid-American (8)	March 4, 7-8	Toledo, Ohio
Mid-Continent (8)	March 2-4	Moline, Ill.
Mid-Eastern Athletic (8)	March 5-8	Norfolk, Va.
Midwestern Collegiate (9)	Feb. 28-March 2, 4	Dayton, Ohio
Missouri Valley (10)	Feb. 28-March 3	St. Louis
Northeast (10)	Feb. 24, 26, 28, March 2	To be determined*
Ohio Valley (8)	Feb. 25, 28, March 1	Nashville, Tenn.
Patriot (7)	March 1-2, 5	To be determined*
Southeastern (12)	March 6-9	Memphis, Tenn.
Southern (10)	Feb. 27-March 2	Greensboro, N.C.
Southland (6)	March 5-8	Shreveport, La.
Southwestern Athletic (8)	March 6-8	To be determined
Sun Belt (10)	Feb. 28-March 4	Little Rock, Ark.
Trans America Athletic (8)	Feb. 27-March 1	Charleston, S.C.
West Coast (8)	March 1-3	Los Angeles
Western Athletic (12)	March 4-8	Las Vegas

*—At the site of the highest-remaining seed.
†—All games will be played at the site of the regular-season champion.
NOTE: Three Division I conferences (Big Ten, Ivy and Pacific-10) do not conduct postseason tournaments. In those leagues, the regular-seaosn champion gets the automatic NCAA Tournament bid. In all other leagues, the tournament champion gets the automatic NCAA bid.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

apg—assists per game
bpg—blocks per game
C—center
Cl.—Classic
F—forward
FGA—field goals attempted
FG%—field-goal percentage
Fr.—freshman
FTA—free throws attempted
FT%—free-throw percentage
G—guard
Ht.—height
Inv.—Invitational
JC—junior college transfer
Jr.—junior
ppg—points per game
Prop 48—failed to meet minimum academic requirements to compete as a freshman
Rk—rank
rpg—rebounds per game
RS—sat out last season as a redshirt
Soph.—sophomore
spg—steals per game
Sr.—senior
St.—State
Tour., Tr.—Tournament
Wt.—weight
3-pt%—three-point field-goal percentage

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DIVISION I COACHING CHANGES

An alphabetical listing of the Division I schools that have new coaches this season:

SCHOOL	OLD COACH	NEW COACH	PREVIOUS JOB
Appalachian State	Tom Apke	Buzz Peterson	Vanderbilt assistant
Cal St. Northridge	Pete Cassidy	Bobby Braswell	Oregon assistant
Central Connecticut St.	Mark Adams	Howie Dickenman	UConn assistant
Charleston Southern	Gary Edwards	Tom Conrad	Charleston Southern assistant
Cleveland State	Mike Boyd	Rollie Massimino	TV analyst
Colorado	Joe Harrington	Ricardo Patton*	Colorado assistant
Cornell	Al Walker	Scott Thompson	Wichita State coach
Delaware State	Fred Goodman	Art Perry	Maryland assistant
Drake	Rudy Washington	Kurt Kanaskie	Indiana (Pa.) Coach
East Tennessee State	Alan LeForce	Ed DiChellis	Penn State assistant
Florida	Lon Kruger	Billy Donovan	Marshall coach
Florida A&M	Ron Brown	Mickey Clayton*	FAMU athletic administration
Idaho	Joe Cravens	Kermit Davis	Utah State assistant
Illinois	Lou Henson	Lon Kruger	Florida coach
Illinois-Chicago	Bob Hallberg	Jimmy Collins	Illinois assistant
Kent	Dave Grube	Gary Waters	Eastern Michigan assistant
Lehigh	Dave Duke	Sal Mentesana	East Stoudsburg (Pa.) coach
Long Beach State	Seth Greenberg	Wayne Morgan	Syracuse assistant
Maine	Rudy Keeling	John Giannini	Rowan (N.J.) coach
Manhattan	Fran Fraschilla	John Leonard	Villanova assistant
Marshall	Billy Donovan	Greg White	UCLA assistant
Md.-Eastern Shore	Jeff Menday	Lonnie Williams	Tuskegee (Ala.) coach
Massachusetts	John Calipari	James Flint	UMass assistant
Miami (Ohio)	Herb Sendek	Charlie Coles	Miami (Ohio) assistant
Middle Tennessee St.	David Farrar	Randy Wiel	UNC Asheville coach
Missouri-Kansas City	Lee Hunt	Bob Sundvold	Central Missouri coach
New Hampshire	Gib Chapman	Jeff Jackson	Stanford assistant
UNC Asheville	Randy Wiel	Eddie Biedenbach	N.C. State assistant
UNC Charlotte	Jeff Mullins	Melvin Watkins	UNCC assistant
North Carolina State	Les Robinson	Herb Sendek	Miami (Ohio) coach
Northeastern	Dave Leitao	Rudy Keeling	Maine coach
Pepperdine	Tony Fuller	Lorenzo Romar	UCLA assistant
Portland State	First-year program	Ritchie McKay	Washington assistant
Princeton	Pete Carril	Bill Carmody	Princeton assistant
Robert Morris	Jarrett Durham	Jim Boone	California (Pa.) coach
St. John's	Brian Mahoney	Fran Fraschilla	Manhattan coach
Southern	Ben Jobe	Tommy Green	Southern assistant
Southern California	Charlie Parker	Henry Bibby*	USC assistant
Southern Mississippi	M.K. Turk	James Green	Iowa State assistant
South Florida	Bobby Paschal	Seth Greenberg	Long Beach State coach
Stephen F. Austin	Ned Fowler	Derek Allister	Stephen F. Austin assistant
Toledo	Larry Gipson	Stan Joplin	Michigan State assistant
UAB	Gene Bartow	Murry Bartow	UAB assistant
Wichita State	Scott Thompson	Randy Smithson	Butler Co. (Kan.) CC coach

*Patton, Clayton and Bibby served as interim coaches last season

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CLOSER

Catching up with ... Luke Witte

A victim in '72 Minnesota-Ohio State brawl, he has little to say about The Fight but a lot to say about his calling to the ministry

BY TERRY PLUTO

CHARLES BJORGEN

The aftermath of the brawl left Witte (far right) on the ground being attended to and Minnesota's Taylor, who seemingly started the whole thing, being held back by an Ohio State player.

In Charlotte, he is known simply as Reverend Luke.

He is a tall, Lincolnesque man. Graying beard. Shoulders slightly stooped. Voice soft, sincere, comforting.

At the Forest Hill Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Luke Witte is one of eight pastors. His specialty is working with singles—the young who have never married, the middle-aged who are divorced or widowed.

He is there for anyone who needs help, or just a friendly ear.

They talk to Witte about their loneliness, their parents, their kids. They don't ask him about basketball, be it his fine career at Ohio State or his three seasons in the mid-1970s as a backup center with the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers.

Once in a while, they'll see this 7-foot man and ask, "Did you play any basketball?"

"Oh, a little bit in college," is what he usually answers.

And that's the end of the conversation.

In Charlotte, they don't know or care about what happened 25 seasons ago, when Witte was in the middle of perhaps college basketball's most infamous brawl. They've never heard of Bill Musselman, Corky Taylor, Ron Behagen or that Ohio State-Minnesota game of January 25, 1972.

"That is the way I like it," says Witte, 46. "Down here, I'm pretty anonymous, and I like it that way. When I was at a church in Ohio, the people were very good to me. But I'd go out, and people would want to talk basketball, or maybe ask me about the fight. After a while, I just didn't have much to say about it."

What happened in that game—a battle of Big Ten title contenders—was that Ohio State was leading Minnesota, 50-44, with 36 seconds left in a rough-and-tumble clash played at the Gophers' Williams Arena. Coached by Musselman, the Gophers were the Big Ten's Bad Boys. Opponents said they could be dirty. Minnesota fans said their Gophers, whose players included future baseball star Dave Winfield, just played hard.

But in that game, they went over the line. The players began fighting. Witte, a junior center, was knocked to the floor. Minnesota's Corky Taylor offered him a hand. But as he pulled Witte up, Taylor kneed Witte in the groin. Behagen came off the bench to join the melee (news reports at the time said Behagen stomped on Witte's head), and Witte suffered a concussion. Ohio State was declared the winner of the game. Taylor and Behagen were suspended for the remainder of the season. Musselman's rising coaching star was dimmed. And Ohio Gov. John Gilligan called the game "an act of public mugging."

Today, Witte says little about it.

"To me, it was like a car accident," he says. "What could I do to stop it?"

Before the "accident," Witte averaged 18.9 points and 12.7 rebounds as a sophomore. In his senior year, his numbers plummeted to 13.7 points and 8.3 rebounds. Then he spent three years on the Cavaliers' bench.

"I grew up pretty sheltered (in Alliance, Ohio)," he says. "Until then (the fight), the game was very pure to me. After that, I guess the game was more a business to me."

Witte eventually reconciled with Taylor, who wrote him a long, heart-wrenching letter. Musselman called him several years later, asking him to play for his minor league team. Witte quietly turned down the offer. When Musselman was hired to coach the Cavaliers in 1980, Cavs owner Ted Stepien wanted Witte to come to the first game and have Witte and Musselman walk to halfcourt and shake hands—a publicity stunt to appease fans who didn't like Stepien's hiring of Musselman.

Witte politely declined.

"I just wanted to put all that behind me," he says.

Now the coach at South Alabama, Musselman is still pained by the incident.

"I'm from Ohio," he says. "I grew up idolizing (Buckeyes coach) Fred Taylor and Ohio State. I loved Fred Taylor. I couldn't believe that fight happened against Ohio State. I tried to contact Fred to talk about it, but he wouldn't respond. I was sick about it. I mean, I didn't run out there and start the fight."

Witte, whose NBA career ended when he was 25, eventually went into the sporting goods business. Then he tried selling cars and insurance but was miserable. Witte found himself spending more time in church. He felt a pull; the jobs he had were empty. He knew that he was supposed to do something else, something different.

"I thought about the ministry for a year or two before I mentioned it to my family," he says. "I heard God calling me, but I figured he must have been calling someone else. I guess I didn't want to hear him."

Witte had a small farm and a nice house near Alliance. He sold it all. He took his wife, Donita, and two children to a seminary in Wilmore, Ky., where Witte spent three years studying Scriptures and praying that God would show him the way.

Financially, it was difficult. Spiritually, Witte began to find himself.

Witte's first stop was a church in Alliance. There, he was everything from pastor to gardener. He also was the former basketball star at Alliance's Marlington High School, the guy who was in the fight in college.

After two years, that didn't feel quite right, either.

Then a position at Forest Hill in Charlotte opened up, a job in which Witte could work with singles and young people. The product of a divorced home, Witte can easily empathize with those he counsels.

"I've been down here for two years, and it has been a blessing," he says. "I have three children, a great wife and a terrific ministry. I really feel that this is what I am supposed to do with my life, that I've found the right spot. And that is very comforting." ◆

Terry Pluto is a columnist for the Akron (Ohio) Beacon Journal.

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